

Cheektowaga-Sloan



Union Free School District

Budget Issue 2026

Superintendent's Message

We sincerely appreciate you taking the time to read this detailed District Newsletter. Inside, you will discover highlights of the exceptional programs and initiatives that make our schools vibrant and inspiring places for students to learn, grow, and shine. You will also find important information about the proposed 2026-2027 Budget which has been developed to support these programs while maintaining our strong record of responsible fiscal management. Our goal is to provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision as you prepare to vote on May 19, 2026, at John F. Kennedy High School.

At the heart of our district is a steadfast commitment to *Educating the Whole Child*. Each year, we build on this promise by expanding academic support, social-emotional learning, and enrichment opportunities. Through innovative programs, dedicated staff, and continuous improvements, we ensure that every student thrives academically, socially, and emotionally within a nurturing and well-rounded learning environment.

The Cheektowaga-Sloan School District is now in its eighth year of implementing **Restorative Practices** district-wide. This work has had a deeply meaningful and positive impact on the culture and climate of each of our schools which has significantly helped to build stronger relationships, improve communication, and foster a greater sense of community.

Each school has a dedicated **Restorative Practices Liaison** who oversees implementation at the building level. These liaisons meet regularly throughout the year to collaborate, share best practices, and ensure consistency across the district. Our **District Restorative Practices Committee** remains in place, as it plays an integral role in supporting and advancing this work across the district.

Over the past two years, we have impressively expanded student involvement in Restorative Practices. **Students in grades 3-12** have been trained through a partnership with the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition (ECRJC) and our Restorative Practice liaisons to serve as Restorative Practice leaders in their schools. These students are learning to facilitate Restorative Circles, develop and write circle prompts, and lead discussions focused on communication, problem-solving, and relationship-building. We are so proud of our student leaders!



In grades 3-8, student leaders are trained in **peer conflict resolution** and, with adult guidance, help classmates work through challenges using a structured

process centered on five restorative questions. Students meet, take turns asking and answering each question, and work collaboratively toward a shared resolution often using visual tools such as Restorative Practice mats to support the conversation. It has been inspiring to see how students rise to these leadership opportunities when provided with the right guidance and support.

Even for our youngest learners at **Theodore Roosevelt in grades PreK-2**, Restorative Practices is woven into leadership development through the "7 Habits" framework. Teachers regularly facilitate classroom circles and can request additional support when needed. The school is also developing Restorative Practice binders with visual supports to help students communicate, especially after moments of escalation. It is essential that relationships and the importance of kindness, respect, acceptance, and leadership begin at this young age. We are grateful for the strong foundation established at Theodore Roosevelt.

As our students progress in their educational journey at Woodrow Wilson, consistency stands out as an important strength. You will find every classroom participating in daily restorative circles. Students have taken ownership of the process by leading activities, creating presentations, mentoring younger peers, and contributing weekly circle prompts for announcements. As a result, relationships have grown stronger, and student conflicts are not only decreasing but are also being resolved more effectively.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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

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At **JFK Middle School**, student leaders have demonstrated outstanding commitment and enthusiasm. The school has implemented tools such as reflection sheets, a circle request system, and student leadership roles within advisory groups. There has been a noticeable decrease in minor conflicts requiring adult intervention, as students increasingly use their skills to resolve issues independently.

Students at **JFK High School** have received conflict resolution training that focuses on facilitating deeper conversations and supporting peers through more complex situations. Restorative circles give students meaningful opportunities to connect in small, peer-led groups where they can share openly in a supportive environment. This time allows students to reflect, support one another, and positively influence their peers. Student leaders are also creating circle content for advisement and modeling leadership throughout the building. We are so pleased to share that staff have reported strong success in resolving conflicts, with students showing increased accountability, empathy, and problem-solving skills.

We are extremely proud that **Restorative Practices in all of our schools** has become an integral part of the discipline process. I wanted to share this milestone with our community because when we began this work eight years ago, integrating Restorative Practices into our discipline approach was a critical goal but one that we knew would take time. Today, Restorative Practices is embedded across the district. Rather than focusing solely on consequences, our approach emphasizes repairing harm, rebuilding relationships, and helping students learn and grow from their



actions. We are incredibly proud of the way students, teachers, staff, administrators, and families have embraced and supported this valuable work.

Examples of **restorative approaches** used in student discipline

include daily and as-needed Restorative Circles in classrooms, conflict resolution meetings initiated by students and staff, the use of restorative language in behavior referrals (grades 3-8), and restorative choices that give students meaningful opportunities to repair harm. For example, students may choose to write apology letters as a way to make amends. Together, these approaches provide students with experiences that promote accountability, encourage responsibility for their actions, reinforce positive behaviors, and strengthen our school community.

We are incredibly proud of the growth of Restorative Practices across our district and the leadership our students and staff continue to demonstrate each day. This work not only supports a positive and welcoming school environment, but also helps students develop lifelong skills in communication, empathy, and conflict resolution. When implemented with care and consistency, we truly believe Restorative Practices has the power to strengthen relationships, heal harm, and build a stronger school community for everyone.

Improving student achievement has been a major focus for all of us across the district.

We are continuing to align our curriculum with the **Science of Reading**, an interdisciplinary body of research that examines how students learn to read through cognitive psychology, neuroscience, and education. This work focuses on providing explicit, systematic instruction grounded in evidence-based practices.

This year, we partnered with consultant Angela Hanlin, an expert in Explicit Instruction, who passionately believes that **every student can learn to read**. She often emphasizes the phrase “All means ALL” to reinforce that every child is capable of reading success. We have committed to and made this message a central part of our work. Explicit Instruction is a structured, research-based approach in which teachers clearly model skills, break learning into manageable steps, and provide guided practice with feedback using the “I do, we do, you do” framework.

For the 2025-2026 school year, our administrative team received training in Explicit Instruction and has supported its implementation in each school. We have placed strong emphasis on clearly defining **learning intentions, success criteria, and relevance**. These are shared with students in all classrooms district-wide, referenced throughout lessons, and reviewed at the end to support understanding and engagement. Administrators have also been visiting classrooms and providing feedback which leads to strong professional conversations and increased student engagement.

In addition, we are in the process of selecting a **new comprehensive reading program** aligned to the Science of Reading for grades pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. This has been a highly collaborative process, and we are excited to begin implementation in the 2026-2027 school year.

To support our ongoing emphasis on student achievement, the district adopted a **new elementary math curriculum** for grades PreK-5 which is aligned with the New York State Next Generation Math Standards. Teachers received two days of professional development in the summer of 2024 to prepare for its rollout, which began in all PreK-5 classrooms that September.

Now in the second year of implementation (2025-2026), teachers continue to deliver the curriculum while regularly analyzing assessment data to identify and support students who need

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additional help. These data-driven discussions guide targeted lessons, review activities, and remediation planning, all designed to ensure students are well-prepared for the spring New York State Math assessments.

We are extremely proud of the success our **Early Warning System (EWS) and Academic Learning Centers (ALCs)** have achieved at JFK Middle School and JFK High School. These initiatives are making a genuine difference in helping students stay on track academically, fulfill all graduation requirements, and reach their fullest potential. This is yet another way we have worked to help improve student achievement!

The Early Warning System which is entering its third year at JFK High School and second year at JFK Middle School, provides a structured approach to identifying students who may need additional support to stay on track for graduation. Using a comprehensive data spreadsheet, we track student performance in three key areas: **Attendance, Behavior, and Course Completion**. Students showing the greatest need are highlighted and selected for individualized interventions.

Once identified, each student meets with a case manager to develop an individualized support plan, which is reviewed with the student and their parents. The case manager monitors progress, meets regularly with the student, and ensures that interventions are effectively implemented.

The results are astounding and were recently showcased at a Board of Education meeting. Students are recovering credits, improving grades, completing assignments, and developing strong organizational and study skills. The most beautiful thing about our Early Warning System is that it works in direct connection with our Academic Learning Centers, where students receive additional academic support. Our Academic Learning Centers are open to all students each day and as we recently learned at a Board of Education meeting, at JFK High School, more than 100 students use the ALC each six-day cycle for Regents preparation, online learning, and targeted academic assistance. At JFK Middle School, students receive help with assignments and focused support in all subject areas, with 45% visiting specifically for math assistance.

Our ALCs have been instrumental in helping our students succeed and we are so fortunate to have them.

In both the Early Warning System and our Academic Learning Centers, students are developing not only academic skills but also critical life skills in organization, time management, goal-setting, and prioritization. Students are gaining confidence, taking ownership of their learning, and becoming more engaged and independent learners. These supportive environments showcase



our district's dedication to equipping every student with the skills, resources, and encouragement they need to achieve academic success, be on track and prepared for graduation, and achieve their highest potential.

I am incredibly proud of our students, teachers, staff, administrators, families and our community for your support and partnership in all that we do to educate children. It is my hope that you have a better understanding of Restorative Practices and how successful it has been in our district as well as many of the tremendous programs and supports that we have in place to help all students excel in school and beyond graduation.

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 2026-2027 Budget includes.

In the center of this newsletter, you will find a beautiful two-page insert showcasing some of the remarkable improvements across our district that have brought renewed energy and pride to our students, staff, schools, and community. Highlights include the playgrounds at Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, new

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Budget Vote Hearing

The School Budget Public Hearing will take place on
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary Cafetorium
2495 William Street
Cheektowaga, NY 14206



School Budget Vote

will take place on
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
noon until 9:00 p.m.

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



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digital signs at all schools, the concession stand and multipurpose turf field at JFK, a brand-new large scoreboard, upgraded lighting and fencing, and more. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support, which has made these important safety upgrades and modernization projects a reality.

In thinking ahead, with your continued support last year in approving our \$19.5 million Capital Project, our community will soon begin to see additional improvements being made to all school buildings and our grounds. To review, I have included some of the work that will soon be taking place once New York State approves the final stages of the architectural plans.

Theodore Roosevelt - Upgrades include window replacements, parking lot improvements, new doors, HVAC updates, electrical and plumbing enhancements, fire alarm system improvements, and ceiling, flooring, and roofing upgrades.

Woodrow Wilson - Planned work includes replacing aging boilers, repairing masonry and drainage structures, upgrading CO detection and HVAC systems, and improving electrical, plumbing, and fire alarm systems.

John F. Kennedy Middle & High School - Projects include replacing fire alarm and HVAC systems, installing new doors, repairing masonry, upgrading plumbing and electrical systems, enhancing CO detection, repairing the loading dock, upgrading the maintenance garage, and modernizing the baseball and softball fields with turf to ensure safe, high-quality athletic experiences comparable to the new football/multipurpose turf field.



We deeply appreciate your support over the past thirteen years as we worked together to make our schools safe, welcoming, and enriching spaces that enhance learning for every student and everyone here in the Cheektowaga-Sloan School District.

We are incredibly proud of the trust our community has placed in the Cheektowaga-Sloan School District. Over the past thirteen years, we have consistently made thoughtful, strategic decisions which have reduced or modified expenses whenever possible so that we can preserve the future of our schools while ensuring the highest quality education for every student. It is through these careful, systematic efforts that we have remained below the tax cap since 2013, with an average annual tax levy increase of just

0.45%. We take great pride in this record and remain committed to upholding it for years to come. Once again, we respectfully ask for the support of our taxpayers on May 19, 2026.



What We Are Asking From Our Taxpayers

We are proposing a **0.98% increase** in school taxes which is well below the **District's Tax Cap of 1.27%**. For the average home in our District, this increase would amount to **approximately \$30.02 per year**. We always ask you to remember that this is the total increase for the entire year.

Each year, as we develop and present the proposed budget, we remain very mindful of the impact that any increase, no matter how small, has on our community, especially during a time of rising costs. As we do every year, we also continued to strongly advocate on behalf of our district. I met with Assemblyman Patrick Chludzinski on February 6, 2026, and with Senator April Baskin on February 27, 2026, to share the cost pressures that continue to affect school districts. These meetings were extremely valuable and ensured that our representatives clearly understand the challenges we face so they can advocate for us at the State level. I remain deeply committed to advocating for our district and working to protect the interests of our taxpayers.

Our careful planning has allowed us to maintain a strong financial position without resorting to significant cuts or staff reductions which is a challenge that many neighboring districts have faced. We have always and continue to prioritize thoughtful budgeting so that we can ensure taxpayer dollars are managed responsibly while continuing to provide the high-quality education that our students and community deserve. We truly hope that our fourteen-year record, which includes the proposed 2026-2027 Budget, of maintaining an average annual tax increase of 0.45% demonstrates our continued commitment to responsible financial stewardship.

Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Celebrate

We warmly invite you to attend our **Public Hearing on May 12, 2026**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Theodore Roosevelt Cafetorium. Then, on **May 19, 2026**, we encourage you to join us and exercise your right to vote in the **District Budget Vote**, which will take place from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the JFK High School gymnasium.

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

We are thrilled to welcome families and community members to an evening of celebration and school spirit! Please come enjoy a \$1 hot dog dinner with chips and a drink in the JFK Cafeteria and be sure to experience the free sundae bar which will be available for everyone to enjoy. Throughout the night, our incredibly talented students will take the stage in the JFK Auditorium, while their remarkable artwork will be proudly displayed in the gymnasium. This special evening is an opportunity to witness firsthand how our commitment to Educating the Whole Child has resulted in academic growth, creativity, and personal development, all of which have helped make our schools vibrant, inspiring places where every student can learn, grow, and shine.

With Gratitude

Thank you for taking the time to read this article and explore our newsletter. We hope it has given you a meaningful preview into the accomplishments and initiatives we are most proud of in our district and that we believe make our schools and district so special.

We are truly grateful for the trust, partnership, and unwavering support of our families and community. This newsletter is a celebration of the significant accomplishments of our PreK-12 students and a reflection of the conscientious planning and leadership that has allowed our schools to flourish. Our students are at the very heart of everything we do and they inspire us each day to create welcoming, nurturing, and enriching learning environments where every child can grow, thrive, and reach their fullest potential academically, socially, and emotionally.

With sincere gratitude,

Andrea L. Galenski
Superintendent of Schools



Kindergarten Registration

For the 2026-2027 School Year

Now Open!

If you are sending your child to Kindergarten in September, you must submit a completed registration packet. You may find information on registration at www.cheektowagasloan.org Central Registration. There are 4 ways to register:

1. Online registration at www.cheektowagasloan.org
2. In person registration (By appointment only - please call 716-891-6427)
3. Drop off or mail in registration (can be printed from district website)
4. Hybrid registration (Begin online & finish in person)

To register any student, you will need the following items:

- Student Identification: Birth certificate, passport or other documentary evidence of birth date
- Parent Identification: Legal parent/guardian photo identification, such as a Driver's License
- Proof of Immunizations and Health Appraisal: Records provided by Doctor's office
- Three (3) Proofs of Residence: Housing documents, utilities, payroll stub, government records
- Guardianship Documents: if applicable, court documentation identifying residential custody

Kindergarten students must be five years old on or before December 1, 2026 and a legal resident of the Cheektowaga Sloan School District.



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. 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 SUNY Erie'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



Growing Participation and New Facilities Drive Success for JFK Athletics!

The Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD Athletic Department is proud to report a significant surge in student participation this school year—a trend we are committed to sustaining. From the sidelines to the finish lines, our students are showing up in numbers to represent the JFK Bears.

While we celebrate the action on the field, the true value of our athletic program is found in character building. Being part of a sport provides our students with a sense of worth, confidence, and the ability to collaborate toward a common goal. We believe that true success isn't just measured in wins; it is found in the dedication required to build a program and the lessons learned through teamwork.

Our students have turned that dedication into remarkable achievements this year:

- **Perfect Season!** The Boys' Bowling team set a new school record with an incredible 70-0 game record and an undefeated 10-0 match season.
- **History in the Making:** We are proud to add a new name to our Top 10 All-Time Scorers leaderboard in the High School gym following a standout Girls' Basketball season.
- **Individual Bests:** Numerous student-athletes broke personal records in our running programs.
- **Character Matters:** Highlighting our commitment to integrity, two additional students earned League Sportsmanship Awards!

Congratulations to all our JFK Bears for their heart and dedication, and a huge Thank You to our community for providing the resources that make these opportunities possible!



Celebrating the Journey: Milestones for the Class of 2026

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our community for your unwavering support of the Class of 2026. This year has already been defined by unforgettable milestones that have strengthened the bond of our senior class. Our students and Class Advisors kicked off the season with a breathtaking "Senior Sunrise" celebration, followed by the proud debut of our custom Class of '26 senior sweatshirts.

The spirit of adventure continued in November, when our seniors enjoyed a memorable class trip to Boston, Massachusetts. Students spent their time exploring the rich history and vibrant culture of the city, taking in iconic landmarks such as Fenway Park and the historic Salem Witch Tours.

The final highlight of the year will be our 62nd Annual Commencement Ceremony, to be held on Friday, June 26, 2026, in the Greenauer Auditorium. While we will certainly miss this exceptional group, we are eager to celebrate their transition into the next chapter of their lives.

Once a Bear, Always a Bear!



JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

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



Main Office 716-891-6407

Investing in Achievement: The Power of the JFK Academic Learning Center

John F. Kennedy High School is proud to highlight the continued success of the Academic Learning Center (ALC), a cornerstone of our commitment to student achievement. Far more than a traditional study hall, the ALC is a unique, dynamic classroom environment open to all students throughout the school day and after school. By providing a dedicated space for growth, the ALC ensures that every student has access to the professional support they need to navigate the complexities of high school academics.

The strength of the ALC lies in its staffing of certified teachers who do far more than just supervise; they actively mentor students in general academics, organizational skills, and Regents Exam preparation. These educators lead weekly accountability meetings and maintain rigorous tracking of grades and attendance. This proactive approach helps students prioritize their tasks and master their coursework, ensuring that no one falls behind. Whether a student is navigating online learning or preparing for Regents exams, the ALC provides the professional intervention necessary to turn challenges into milestones.

The true value of the ALC is perhaps best captured by the students themselves. After successfully passing a difficult Regents Exam, one student remarked that the ALC was the perfect space to actually get things done, expressing deep gratitude for having a kind, supportive professional there to help them through the process. As we look toward the future, the ALC remains a vital investment in the heart and mind of every JFK student.



A New Era for JFK Athletics: Friday Night Lights!

JFK High School was honored to officially debut our new athletic complex this past fall, bringing the magic of **Friday Night Lights** to our community! The season was a spectacular success, marked by beautiful weather, record crowds dressed in Black & Gold, and a revitalized Varsity Football program led by our veteran, award-winning coaching staff.

Our new state-of-the-art complex features a professional-grade experience for athletes and fans alike. The vibrant turf field, fully controllable lighting, and “must-see” digital scoreboard have transformed our game-day atmosphere. Beyond the field, our brand-new concession stand provided full amenities for volunteers, workers, and guests, with even more menu options planned for next year. To enhance the entertainment, our High School Administration, Yearbook Staff, and District Technology Team collaborated to produce custom player profiles, live play-by-play announcing, and animated videos, while our Varsity Cheerleaders kept the energy high with choreographed routines under the lights.

The future of JFK Athletics is brighter than ever, and we look forward to seeing you back in the stands in Fall '26! Go Bears!



Art in Action: JFK Students Take on WNY Challenges

Our Art Department is on a roll! JFK teachers continue to provide exciting opportunities for students to showcase their creativity while representing JFK.

This past March, nine students participated in the Erie 1 BOCES Student Art Challenge at Villa Maria College, tackling the surprise prompt “Transformation.” With only two hours to create finished pieces, our artists impressed judges with their skill and poise under pressure.

In addition to the Art Challenge, ten talented JFK artists will once again compete in the Clay Throwdown at Artpark! Ceramics students are gearing up for this high-energy team competition, testing their technical mastery and problem-solving skills in a series of timed challenges.

And a special congratulations goes out to two of our amazing students who were selected to exhibit their work during Buffalo State University’s 9th Annual Invitational entitled: “Spring Celebration.” We are incredibly proud of their regional recognition!

Save the Date: Our District-Wide Art Show takes over the high school gym on May 19th! Stop by during the Budget Vote to celebrate our students’ creativity. See you there!





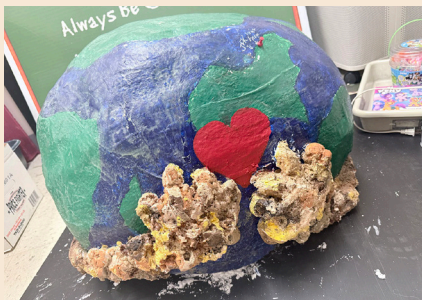
JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Art

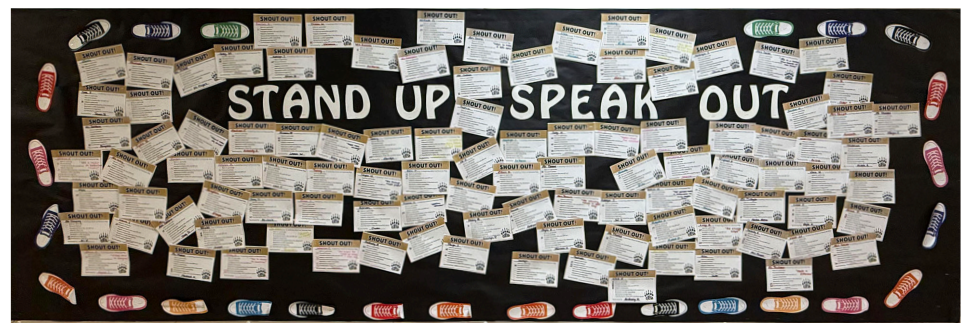
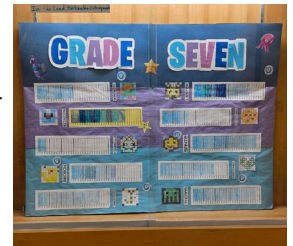
The 7th Grade Art Club has been collaborating on a sculpture for the upcoming JFK Café on April 23rd. Since the theme this year is Togetherness, students wanted to create something that shows how everyone belongs on Earth, even though we may all be different. Students began by building a large spherical shape using recycled materials. Once the structure was complete, students carefully plastered the surface to make it strong and smooth. After the plaster dried, the group painted the sphere as a globe to represent the Earth we all share. To add another meaningful element, students used sprayable craft foam to create arms that wrap around the globe. The arms were painted with a variety of skin tones to represent people from many different backgrounds. The arms hugging the Earth symbolize unity, kindness, and the idea that we should support and care for one another. The students hope their sculpture reminds everyone that even though we are all unique, we are stronger when we come together.



A Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

I'm excited to share that we've had a wonderful year at the middle school. We've seen increases in attendance, effort, and determination among our students, much of which can be attributed to our 2025-2026 theme, Level Up. Through this initiative, students earn points for meeting various benchmarks, helping to create an inclusive, supportive, and affirming environment. These points accumulate toward larger rewards such as extra outdoor time, Nintendo Switch game time, and snacks. This systems has strengthened our positive school culture, and it has been especially rewarding to see students motivating one another to succeed. Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to your child's learning. By working together, we are helping our students discover their interests, refine their skills, and build habits that will support their success in high school, college, and career. Please enjoy our middle school newsletter pages, which highlight many of the successes from our year.



Restorative Leaders

Here at JFK, we take pride in celebrating the academic achievements of our students. This year, we recognized quarterly success through Honors Assemblies and Honors Breakfasts. We also celebrated students' passing all of their classes at the 5, 15, and 25 week marks with a movie day, bear-themed bingo, and karaoke sing-along.

We continue to build a positive school community by hosting fall and winter sports pep rallies featuring Minute to Win It games, athlete recognition, and students-versus-teachers competitions. In addition, we host our annual back-to-school dance, and we look forward to our upcoming Spring Pep Rally and Luau Dance.



JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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



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School Spirit

Middle school is all about discovering yourself and expressing who you are. Students love Buffalo Bills and JFK Bears spirit day, and this year we added new favorites such as Class Color Day, Disney Day, and Age Swap Day. We also celebrate students' creativity through spirit weeks held throughout the year. From Fall Homecoming and Halloween to Winter Peace and Kindness Week, we continually find opportunities to honor our students' individuality.



Technology

It's been a busy and exciting time in our Tech classes! Our **7th graders** are currently learning how to be digital designers using a program called **TinkerCAD**. They are working hard to create 3D models of block whistles on the computer. It's great to see them learn how to turn a digital drawing into a real, working object! Our **8th graders** just finished a big unit on **Robotics** at the end of January. They did an amazing job building and programming their robots to complete different tasks. Some of our 8th graders even went on a field trip to the **Tech Wars** competition at SUNY Niagara. They did a fantastic job representing our school while competing in the **CO2 car races** and the **bridge building** contest. We are so proud of all their hard work!



Music

Musicians in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Band and/or Chorus have been working diligently to prepare music for the upcoming concert season. Many of our students have been putting in the work after school during our music club offerings, including Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Select Chorus. Additionally, many middle school students have been cast in the MS/HS Spring Musical, *Mame!* We'd also like to highlight the following musicians for going above and beyond. They were selected for Junior High All County: Jaxon Pace (7th-grade band and chorus), Olivia Ziccardi (8th-grade chorus), Arianna Martinez (8th-grade chorus), Abigail Dixon (7th-grade chorus), Liam Hebert (7th-grade chorus), and Caliegh Asher (7th-grade chorus). This is a tremendous feat that takes energy, patience, hard work, and a high level of commitment and dedication. Congratulations to these students! Near the end of the school year, on Wednesday, June 3, our Middle School Band and Chorus will inspire the next generation of musicians with a concert to celebrate the end of the school year!



Athletics

This year, middle school students enjoyed units in Pickleball and Badminton and learned two games that they can take into the warmer summer months, both at home and in the community! During outdoor PE class, students are using Intramurals as an opportunity to stay ready for sports season! Each season (Fall, Winter, and Spring), intramurals were geared towards opportunities for sharpening their skills for sports they are interested in and can try out for. This also helped spark interest in something new. Confidence was built by many students, and we are hoping that this increases our numbers for participation in inter-scholastic sports opportunities.

National Honor Society Food Drive

Our National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) hosted its annual Thanksgiving food drive. Homerooms collected non-perishable food items to support families in need, and NJHS members organized, packaged, and helped deliver the donations. It's inspiring to see our students making a positive impact in their community.



FACS

Family and Consumer Science (FACS) classes are evolving to reflect today's rapidly changing world, placing a stronger emphasis on practical life skills that students can use immediately and in the future. One major area students are currently learning about is financial responsibility. With rising living costs and growing conversations about budgeting and debt management, students are learning about spending plans, comparison shopping, banks and loans, and understanding the basics of checking accounts and savings accounts. Students have been practicing managing their income and expenses in scenarios that resemble real-life, like earning money for working (FACS CASH) and researching and "purchasing" a vehicle. With its updated curriculum and focus on real-world application, Family and Consumer Science continues to play a vital role in preparing students for success beyond the classroom.



From the Sidelines to the Signage:

New Grounds for Play: Pure Joy at Theodore Roosevelt & Woodrow Wilson Elementary!



Thanks to your incredible support, students at Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson Elementary officially have brand-new, state-of-the-art spaces to explore, climb, and grow. These playgrounds are not just equipment—they are where memories are made and where our youngest Bears learn the power of play. Thank you for investing in our children's happiness and health!



Connecting Our Community, One Sign at a Time



We are thrilled with our new state-of-the-art signs at each building. These vibrant new displays allow us to share the latest news and Bear pride with our families and neighbors in real-time.

Celebrating Our Newest Upgrades

Bright Paths & Bear Pride



We've upgraded our JFK campus to now include sleek, modern walkway lighting to ensure a safe, bright path for all our fans. The journey leads straight to our brand new concession stand, featuring stunning, backlit 'JFK Bears' signage that brings a professional stadium feel to every home game.



From the Sidelines to the Signage:

A Legacy in Gold and Black: Celebrating the Finished Field



We are officially ready for action on our brand-new, multi-purpose turf field and professional-grade track. Featuring bold 'JFK Bears' branding and a state-of-the-art digital scoreboard, this facility is designed to provide our student-athletes with the elite competitive environment they deserve. From the first touchdown to the final lap, these upgrades represent a massive leap forward for our school spirit and community pride. Thank you for your unwavering support in making this championship-level vision a reality. See you on the sidelines!

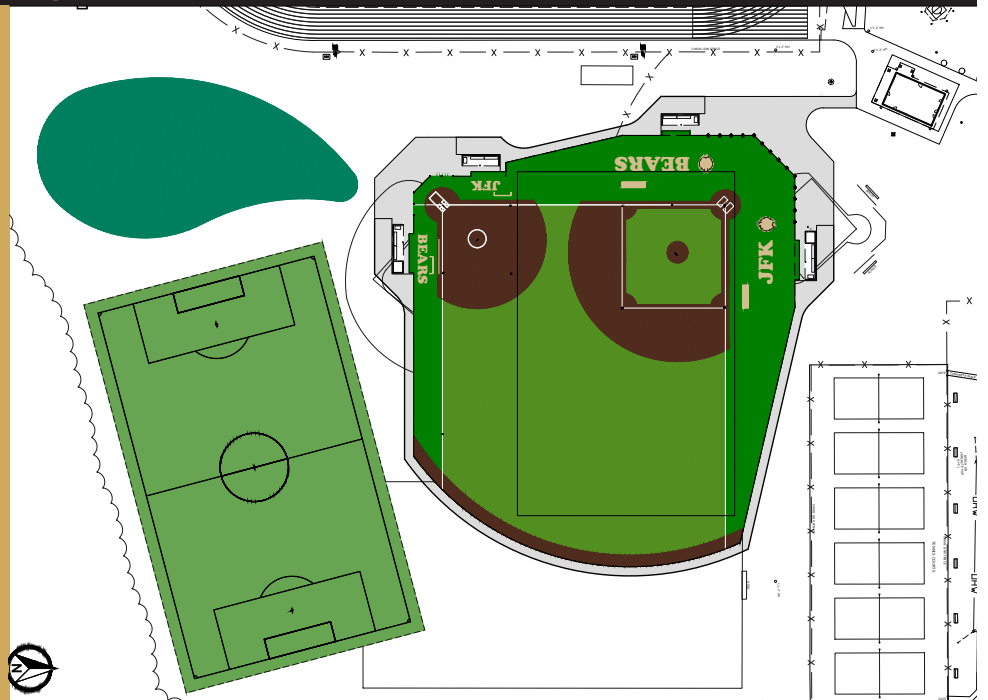


Celebrating Our Newest Upgrades



Built to Grow: Expanding the Home of the Bears

Our blueprint for success is expanding! Take a look at the planned addition to our athletic campus: a brand-new turf complex featuring dedicated diamonds for both baseball and softball. This expansion continues our commitment to providing state-of-the-art facilities that match the spirit and talent of our students. We are incredibly thankful for a community that dreams big and helps us grow. Let's keep building something amazing together!





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 2026-2027 Budget in the amount of \$44,146,792 and to levy the necessary tax?

YES NO

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

Tax Rate	Cheektowaga	West Seneca
2025 - 2026 Actual	\$19.53	\$61.03
2026 - 2027 Estimated	\$19.72	\$61.63
Increase	\$0.19	\$0.60

Instruction: 53.3%

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	\$12,232,194
Students with Disabilities	8,797,822
Curriculum Development and Supervision	553,529
BOCES Services / Occupational Education	
Instruction	370,000
Summer School / Continuing Education	95,800
In-Service Training	96,000
Supervision, Planning and Evaluation	1,377,064
TOTAL	\$23,522,409

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	272,604
School Library, Audio Visual Services and Computer Assisted Instruction	953,894
Health Services	382,248
Psychological Services	155,112
Social Work Services	321,477
Co-curricular Activities	151,550
Interscholastic Athletics	379,685
Community Census	17,050
TOTAL	\$2,649,045

General Support: 5.6%

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	8,300
Annual District Meeting	7,050

Central Administration:

Superintendent's Office	325,635
Business Administration	410,480
Legal, Auditing and Purchasing	370,100
Public Information, Newsletters and Brochures	19,280
Central Printing and Mailing	46,100
Central Data Processing	785,850

Special Items:

Insurance	162,800
Association Dues and Assessments	71,175
BOCES Administration Charges	224,400

TOTAL \$2,456,845

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.

Buildings and Grounds	\$1,727,663
Utilities	623,000
Equipment, Materials and Supplies	265,000
Inter-fund Transfer to Capital Project Fund - Facility Improvement	100,000
TOTAL	\$2,715,663

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	\$3,382,826
BOCES Services	65,180
Fuel, Equipment, Material and Supplies	52,000
TOTAL	\$3,500,006

BUDGET INFORMATION

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

District Office 716-891-6402



Debts & Obligations: 21.1%

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	\$595,724
Teacher's Retirement	1,469,800
Social Security	1,356,000
Workers Compensation	250,000
Life Insurance	35,000
Unemployment Insurance	50,000
Hospital and Medical Insurance	4,248,000

Debt Service:

Serial Bond Principal	1,035,000
Serial Bond and Other Interest	263,300

TOTAL \$9,302,824

GRAND TOTAL \$44,146,792

Budget Vote Hearing

The School Budget Public Hearing will take place on

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 • 7:00 p.m.

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary Cafetorium

2495 William Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14206

School Budget Vote

will take place on

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 • noon until 9:00 p.m.

John F. Kennedy High School Gymnasium

305 Cayuga Creek Road, Cheektowaga, New York

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 one (1) member to the Board of Education, serving a five (5) year term, commencing on July 1, 2026, and expiring on June 30, 2031.

The position is currently held by Zachary Smith.

Candidate:

Candidate: Lesly Harmon

Write in Candidate: _____

See candidate bio below.

Candidate Bio

Lesly Harmon

As a wife and mother of two students in the district—one in high school and one in middle school—I truly understand firsthand the needs and aspirations of our families.

Throughout my 19-year career in education, I have demonstrated a passionate commitment to creating safe, innovative, and inclusive learning environments. I have focused on three key areas—**student safety, technology integration, and community engagement**—reflects my vision for a district where every student thrives. I believe in strong partnerships between schools, families, and the broader community are essential to student success and district excellence.

I am committed to advocating for initiatives that enhance campus safety, empower teachers with modern educational tools, and strengthen connections between our schools and the families we serve. I look forward to making a meaningful difference in Cheektowaga Sloan.

Who is Eligible to Vote?

To be eligible to vote on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 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 19, 2026
- 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.



WOODROW WILSON ELEMENTARY

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

Main Office 716-891-6419

Recognizing Attendance

We continue to see growth and success in our attendance this year. Our celebrations include improved attendance as well as excellent attendance. Each classroom has an attendance board that hangs outside of the classroom. Students are responsible for writing down the daily percentage of students present for school. We use this data to recognize classrooms with shout-outs. Excellent attendance rooms are entered into raffles for drawings that have included healthy snacks, extra recess time in the gym, and games. This year, Woodrow Wilson has had two days with 99.9% attendance. We were so proud that each student received a glow wand to use at our school celebrations.

Creativity in the Art Room

The art room is a colorful spot for Woodrow Wilson students. They get to work with various mediums and learn about famous artists before creating their own projects. Students use watercolors, tempera paints, nylon, yarn, and more to create.

Student creations can be found throughout the hallways at Woodrow Wilson. Splashes of color, artistic interpretation, and creativity are shown in many formats. We hope you will visit our District Art show for a quick peek at what we get to see each day at Woodrow Wilson. There are plenty of opportunities for students to express their creativity, including an after-school art club. We even had to open up more sessions this year in response to the high interest from students.

Woodrow Wilson Elementary - GLOWing Bright This Year

This year at Woodrow Wilson, we chose the theme "G.L.O.W." This stands for growing and learning our way. We know that each student grows and learns differently, and it is our work each day that allows each student to make individual growth. We do this by setting our Wildly Important Goals, which focus on reading through our Beanstack program and also through MathFact Lab, which allows students to master their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. Building our individual reading and math fluency helps us glow in the classroom, and we continue to celebrate with glow events, which allow us to come together and celebrate as a school.

One of our favorite places to come together as a school is our new playground. Each day we hope for clear weather so that we can have recess outside on the new equipment. Woodrow Wilson students love climbing, swinging, sliding, and hanging from our brand-new structures.



Student Leadership and Restorative Practices

We are in our third year with Restorative Student Leaders. Our veteran leaders helped our new leaders get prepared to lead classroom circles and mediate student conflicts by running restorative circles or using our restorative mats in each classroom. This year, our leaders are choosing to focus on training the rest of the class how to mediate their own minor conflicts using these classroom mats.

In addition to these leaders, we have had close to 50 Student Lighthouse Leaders. Our students are highly interested in leadership, and due to the overwhelming number of applicants, we have implemented half-year positions again this year. This allows us to cultivate more leaders and amplify student voices in our decisions, which is the newest of the Habits in the Leader in Me Program.

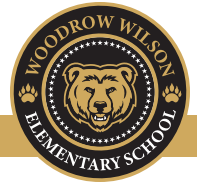
Our Lighthouse Students have organized multiple school assemblies, beautified our school, created interactive displays, and helped our Parent Teacher Organization with fundraisers. Additionally, for many of our events and holidays, we have different students sign up for committees. These committees help our faculty and staff plan the events.

We also have a Video Announcement Club, and members of this team present our Peek at the Week on Mondays, and Weekly Wrap-ups on Fridays. They also select photographers from different rooms in the building, and these student pictures are shared in each broadcast. Woodrow Wilson students are taking part in leadership throughout many clubs and continuously looking for more opportunities to sign up. We are very proud of them.

WOODROW WILSON ELEMENTARY

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

Main Office 716-891-6419



GLOWing in Academics

In our second year of Reveal Math, students are showing increased understanding of math concepts and vocabulary. Coupled with Mathfact Lab fluency practice, we have several Math Fact Masters in Woodrow Wilson and many others who are building their proficiency as they receive their daily instruction targeting their individual needs.

We continue to build on our work in the science of reading to transition students from the stage of learning to read into the stage of reading to learn. Working with students in small groups for reading allows us to target specific skills, meeting our students where they are to help them grow further.

Science and social studies remain favorites at Woodrow Wilson. Students enjoy the hands-on learning time with the science kits and our NYS investigative labs. Social studies has become interactive this year, and has included visits from local museums.

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



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.



This is a great level where students explore an instrument for the first time. Many students are close to earning their way into After-School Band after continuing to practice this instrument throughout the year. This year was the earliest we have had a musician pass the band lesson and enter after school band!

In After-School Band, students focus on ensemble performance skills, musical concepts, and band etiquette. Students are learning that music exists beyond the page and we look forward to sharing this with our audience at future performances!

The Library - A Hub for Literacy, Technology, and STEM

At Woodrow Wilson, our library is one of the first places students visit each day. With over 18,000 books and a library team continuously updating to bring in high-interest selections, students often visit multiple times a week outside of their library classes.

Our library continues to be much more than a place to check out books. Students build computer coding and typing skills and learn how to navigate the internet safely. With a focus on research, the skills students learn in the library transfer directly back into the classroom.

STEM is a student favorite during library rotations and these challenges focus on collaboration.

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. In recent years, Woodrow Wilson has begun a Recorder Chamber. Our chamber practices during the school day, and you can hear them perform at our school concerts. This is a great opportunity to hear the different pitches of the different recorders.

Our Drama Club has been working since this fall for our yearly performance. This is a great chance for students to experiment with stage performance, line memorization, and stage crew before they head up to JFK for larger productions. We hope you will join us for a musical performance soon.



Physical Education

We have continued to update physical education equipment this year, offering students new opportunities to experience fresh and exciting games. We've continued to focus on the fundamentals of throwing and catching skills, incorporating activities that develop coordination, accuracy, and teamwork.

We love physical education, movement, and teamwork at Woodrow Wilson!



Letter from the Principal

TR Families,

As we welcome the spring season, it is a great time to refocus and finish the school year strong together. Success at school begins at home, and your partnership continues to make a meaningful difference in your child's growth and achievement.

Establishing consistent routines at home supports what we do each day at TR. Setting aside daily "quiet time" without screens allows students to complete schoolwork, read, and build important habits like self-discipline and focus. Reading at home remains one of the most impactful ways to support your child, whether you are reading to, with, or alongside them, it helps build confidence, vocabulary, and a lifelong love of learning.

Healthy routines also include proper sleep and strong attendance. Consistent bedtimes without screen time before bed help students rest and recharge, while daily attendance ensures they don't miss valuable instructional time. When students are present and engaged, they are better positioned for success.

At TR, we are proud to be a Leader in Me Lighthouse School, and we encourage families to continue reinforcing the 7 Habits at home. Ask your child about the 7 Habits or their leadership binder, or try a simple family check-in. You may be surprised by the leadership and growth they share!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can ensure every TR student finishes the year strong. Please enjoy the highlights showcasing the dedicated TR faculty and staff and the incredible student growth throughout this newsletter. As always, feel free to reach out for any assistance.

Sincerely,
Jeff Mochrie
Principal

100 Days Smarter: Kindergarten Celebrates in Style!

Our Kindergarten students celebrated the 100th Day of School at the end of February, marking an exciting milestone in their learning journey. Throughout the day, students participated in engaging, hands-on activities centered around the number 100. A highlight of the celebration was the 100th Day Fashion Show, where students proudly modeled t-shirts decorated with 100 items. Each shirt, thoughtfully designed at home, showcased students' creativity and family involvement.



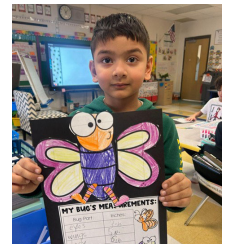
First Graders are Hopping into Science: Exploring "A Bunny's Life"

In our "A Bunny's Life" science unit, first graders take on the role of scientists as they explore the natural world! Students begin by observing how young rabbits resemble their parents while also identifying the unique differences that make each one special. Students investigate how animal parents take care of their babies, as well as how animals use special "tools" to help them survive and thrive. Currently, our young scientists are engaged in hands-on investigations of animal footprints, discovering how different foot structures create distinct patterns in the world around them.



Measuring Up: Second Graders Explored Length!

Second graders engaged in an exciting math unit focused on measurement and length. Through a variety of hands-on activities, students learned to use tools such as rulers, yardsticks, and meter sticks. They explored different units of measurement, including centimeters, inches, feet, and yards, while practicing how to measure objects around the classroom. Students also developed their estimation skills, predicting lengths and determining which unit was most appropriate to use.



Making Music & Memories: A Year of Sound at TR

The General Music Room at Theodore Roosevelt School has been filled with energy, creativity, and joy all year long! Students have explored a variety of instruments, including drums, xylophones, and scarves, while learning about rhythm, beat, and other musical concepts.

Our December concert was a highlight, with students doing an outstanding job bringing their learning to life through performance. Throughout the year, students also connected literature and music through engaging stories and activities. As we moved into spring, students began preparing for our annual Reader's Theater, A Day at the Farm, where music and storytelling come together in a meaningful way.

In March, we celebrated Music in Our Schools Month with a special presentation, A Story Through Music, featuring Oboist Anna Mattix and Bassist Brett Shurtliffe from the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, an inspiring experience for our students.

Meanwhile, Grade 2 Choir and Grade 2 Drama have continued to thrive, showcasing their talents in performances throughout the year and into June.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY

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



Main Office 716-891-6424

Turning Pages & Building Minds: Learning Comes Alive in the TR Library

PreK through 2nd Grade students have been actively engaged in the TR Library all year long! During their time in the library, students utilize both our physical collection and digital databases, along with engaging STEAM challenges, to deepen their understanding of grade-level content. Through ongoing STEAM activities, students collaborate and synergize to solve problems, all while practicing positive communication, maintaining a growth mindset, and demonstrating perseverance when faced with challenges.



“Taco ’Bout Teamwork!”: TR’s Family First Dinner Brings Community Together

In November, the Restorative Practice Committee, led by Mrs. Angrignon and Mrs. Stockwell, hosted its annual Family First Dinner, welcoming over 200 students and families. The event encouraged families to unplug from technology and engage in meaningful conversations through Restorative Practice Circles and the 7 Habits from the Leader in Me program.

This year’s theme, “Taco ’Bout Teamwork,” featured walking tacos and rice bowls, along with face painting and balloons. The evening also included cooperative games and a high-energy pep rally led by our PE teacher, Mr. Langlotz. JFK High School student-athletes joined us to help promote teamwork and strengthen the sense of community across our schools.



Special guests Ted-E- Bear, Sabre Tooth, and Buster Bison added to the excitement, while Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Finn led a Restorative Circle and presentation. Overall, the event provided families with a meaningful opportunity to connect, collaborate, and reinforce the core values we celebrate at TR.

Special Delivery: Teddy Bear Mail Club on the Move!

Students at Theodore Roosevelt have the exciting opportunity to write and send letters to friends, siblings, teachers, and even the principal through our in-school postal service run by the 2nd Grade Teddy Bear Mail Club. These student leaders take on important roles to keep the system running smoothly, including Postmasters, Facers, Sorters, Nixie Clerks, and, most importantly, Letter Carriers. Through this authentic experience, students build leadership, responsibility, and communication skills. Our Teddy Bear Mailers have been hard at work all year. Will they reach their goal of delivering 1,000 letters?



TR Full-Day UPK: Growing, Learning, and Thriving All Day Long

Our UPK team is thrilled to have transitioned to a full-day program this school year, along with the addition of a third UPK classroom. This expansion has created more opportunities to build stronger relationships and support meaningful growth with our youngest learners.

Our full-day schedule allows for extended learning and play, including increased time for gross motor development. Students are loving the new TR playground - a UPK favorite - as well as time in the gymnasium for structured activities. Throughout the day, we continue to provide an enriched environment that includes academic learning centers, snack time to build socialization skills, and rest time. This balance is essential, as rest supports cognitive development and emotional regulation by allowing students to process their learning and recharge for the afternoon.

An exciting addition to our program is the opportunity for UPK students to attend the library during special areas time. Library visits help foster early literacy skills, encourage curiosity, and introduce students to a variety of resources in a structured and engaging environment.



Creative Expressions: A Year of Artistic Exploration

TR artists have been busy all year creating landscapes, still lifes, and portraits. Along the way, they have learned about a wide range of artists from masters of the past to contemporary creators making art today. Students explored a variety of mediums including chalk, paint, clay, yarn, markers, and ink, bringing their creativity to life in many unique ways. We are excited to showcase their colorful masterpieces at the District Art Show for all to enjoy!



Food Service

The Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD food service department started the school year off strong, beginning with our summer lunch program. Two of our staff members prepared and served 2,117 nutritious, balanced lunches for our locations at Theodore Roosevelt and Sloan Village Park. We are happy to be able to offer this service each year and are looking forward to launching it again this July.

We had an exciting change to our food service program in December. We switched computer platforms from Nutrikids to Mosaic, which provides faster and more accurate point of sale service for our students. We received new computer terminals for each of our buildings and are partnered with Erie 1 BOCES for our Mosaic technical support and cashier training.

We have added many new food items to our breakfast and lunch menus this year. The students have enjoyed foods like garlic basil chicken meatballs, peanut butter and chocolate Uncrustables, chicken cordon bleu sandwiches, hash brown sticks and hash brown crowns, and a BBQ bacon burger. The new lunch favorites have been “totchos”, which are nachos utilizing tater tots instead of tortilla chips, our tasty griddle pancake sandwich, and walking tacos. The delicious apple nachos are a hit for breakfast with our high school students. We are proud to have introduced some Halal foods such as meatballs, burgers, and chicken fillets to the students at JFK Middle and High School. It is very important to all of us in administration and food service to meet the dietary needs of everyone in our diverse student community.

We recently hosted a product taste testing at JFK middle and high schools. We were joined by a representative from General Mills, who brought in their brand-new Pancake Puffs, available in maple and strawberry flavors. The students were able to sample both varieties and vote if they would like to see them on the menu. All grade levels responded with an enthusiastic thumbs up!

Participating in special events throughout the year always brings us joy. From catering lunches for the new teacher orientation over the summer, providing the food for the middle and high school Honors Breakfasts, themed meals for the Superintendent Council meetings, Fine Dining lunches at Theodore Roosevelt, serving up ice cream sundaes for the Budget Vote, and breakfast with the Principal at Woodrow Wilson. The food service staff in each of our buildings are thrilled to be a part of brightening the day of all of our wonderful students.

Our hard-working food service staff are grateful to our students, faculty and administration, parents, and the community for the continued feedback and 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 pleased to present this update and extend our sincere appreciation. Your support enables us to modernize our systems and enhance accessibility and engagement for all students and staff, while maintaining the security of our information technology systems. This initiative is structured around our three-year technology plan, which has received formal approval from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) this year.

A major focus is our hardware refresh and upgrade cycle. Every year, we ensure students in grades K, 4, and 9 receive new Chromebooks, providing them with reliable, up-to-date technology. In the 2025-2026 school year, we upgraded teachers' laptops at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School. We are now preparing to replace all teacher laptops at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School before the summer of 2026, ensuring our educators have the resources they need.

Another key area of development is expanding and improving our District-wide WiFi network. With the opening of the new multi-use field, we installed a high-powered access point in the press box. This addition gives our coaches instant Wi-Fi access on the sidelines, allowing the football coaches to review live game replays on their iPads. Looking ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, we plan to continue this expansion by adding Wi-Fi access to the tennis courts and ball fields at JFK, as well as the playgrounds at our elementary schools.

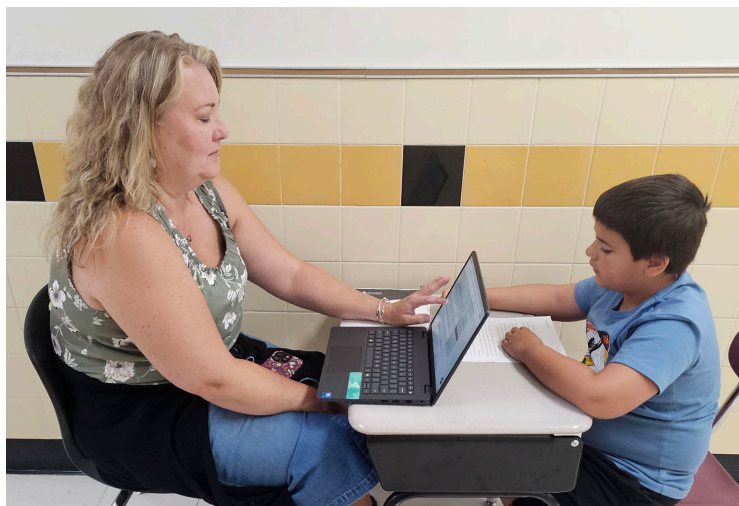
Part of our professional development effort is focused on the future of technology, specifically the emerging use of Artificial Intelligence. During the March Superintendent Conference Day, Mr. Zybala trained the faculty and staff on the ethical application of A.I. They learned how to use District-approved large-language models as partners in creative and critical thinking to help solve a variety of real-world challenges, such as improving lesson plans, assessments, and behavioral

and academic interventions. Our dedicated faculty and staff have embraced this new tool, leveraging their extensive knowledge and experience to significantly boost their efficiency and effectiveness.

Finally, technology continues to be a critical component of safety and security for everyone in our buildings and on our grounds. Last fall, we enhanced our surveillance by installing new cameras to cover the multi-use field's stands, the field, and the areas surrounding and inside the concession stand. We have ongoing plans to improve the views and video retention capabilities of our security camera system. To better control access to our facilities, we upgraded the server for our door controllers, streamlining our ability to grant and revoke access credentials and ensuring only approved individuals can enter our buildings. Additionally, we modernized the software on our heating system. This upgrade

guarantees we can implement future security patches, and, by moving to a web-based interface, it provides select users with secure, remote access to the system.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Board of Education and the District residents for their continued support and for having approved prior budgets, which made these vital technology advancements possible. Your commitment to our students and staff enables us to pursue these critical projects that enhance learning, efficiency, and safety across the District.





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. Our support staff has demonstrated exceptional dedication this school year, collaborating creatively and innovatively to address the diverse needs of our students.



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 2025-2026 school year, we have continued to strengthen our programming at all grade levels, with a particular emphasis on expanding and enhancing the 15:1:1 self-contained classroom program at JFK High School. Our ongoing goal is to ensure that all students receive the appropriate level of support and instruction necessary to access the curriculum and develop increased independence.

Through innovative scheduling and flexible grouping practices, we continue to revise our model to ensure that it delivers specialized instruction based on individual student needs rather than solely on program placement. This approach to addressing special education needs prioritizes:

- Least Restrictive Environments
- Data-driven instructional decisions
- Individualized reading interventions
- Gradual reduction of special education dependency
- Increased student independence

The assignment of a consultant teacher to each student allows us to implement this specialized approach effectively and respond efficiently to student

needs. We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of our Special Education students and remain excited about their continued growth and success.

During the 2025-2026 school year, the department also placed a strong emphasis on strengthening behavioral supports for students. Staff participated in professional development focused on de-escalation strategies and proactive behavioral interventions. Additionally, the department developed and implemented a comprehensive procedural framework outlining the process for requesting behavioral services for students requiring additional support. This framework ensures that behavioral concerns are

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 last page

addressed through a consistent, structured, and data-informed process. An important component of this work has been our continued partnership with ALP, whose behavioral specialists collaborate with district staff to provide consultation, targeted interventions, and guidance for students with more intensive behavioral needs. Together, these procedures and partnerships help ensure that students receive coordinated and effective behavioral supports across educational settings.

At JFK Middle School and High School, we have also focused on strengthening our Early Warning System. This system provides a structured approach to identifying students who may be at risk of not graduating and who may require additional support in one or more of the following areas:

- Attendance
- Behavior
- Course completion

When a student is identified as needing additional support in one of these key areas, a plan manager is assigned, and an intervention plan is developed. Each student's plan outlines specific strategies designed to support improvement in the identified area, with the ultimate goal of ensuring the student's academic success. The plan is developed collaboratively with the student's parents, and progress is reviewed every five weeks to determine whether the student is demonstrating improvement or requires additional support.

The Early Warning System teams include a diverse group of stakeholders, including district administrators, building-level administrators, teachers, social workers, counselors, and school psychologists. To date, we have observed meaningful success through the implementation of this system and look forward to continuing to build upon this progress as we support our students.

Student Support Team:

Educating the whole child and addressing the social-emotional needs of our students remain a top priority for our student support staff. Our Student Support Team continues to individualize their work to meet the unique needs of each student while also collaborating with building-based teams to strengthen the Child Study Team process at every school. Through this collaborative approach, we work to ensure that students are identified early and provided with the appropriate supports and resources necessary for their success.

English as New Language Teachers:

With the support of our talented English as a New Language (ENL) teachers, we have seen significant growth among our English Language Learner (ELL) students this year. A key factor in this success has been the individualized learning plans developed for each student, which outline important demographic information, necessary accommodations and modifications, and specific instructional supports to help students access the

curriculum and succeed in their classes. These tailored plans allow teachers to better understand and respond to each student's unique needs while ensuring consistency of support across classrooms, reflecting our district's strong commitment to providing targeted resources that promote the academic success of our ELL students.

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.

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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