Pittsford
School District News

Spring 2026

A publication for the residents of Pittsford Central School District

2026-27 District Calendar is Available Online

The Pittsford Schools' Board-approved at-a-glance calendar is now available on the District website. It includes essential dates, including the first day of school (Sept. 8), Regents exam dates, federal/state holidays and school breaks.

View the calendar at: *pittsfordschools.org/calendar.*

Board of Education Budget Development Meeting Schedule

The Pittsford Central School District community is invited to attend and observe the remainder of the 2026-27 budget development meeting sessions as they are open to the public. Community members will have the opportunity to comment at the subsequent regular Board of Education meetings. The first two Budget Work Sessions were held on February 3 and 24. The remainder of the meeting dates are listed below.

All meetings take place in the Barker Road Middle School McCluski Room. The May 19, 2026 Budget Vote is at Calkins Road Middle School.

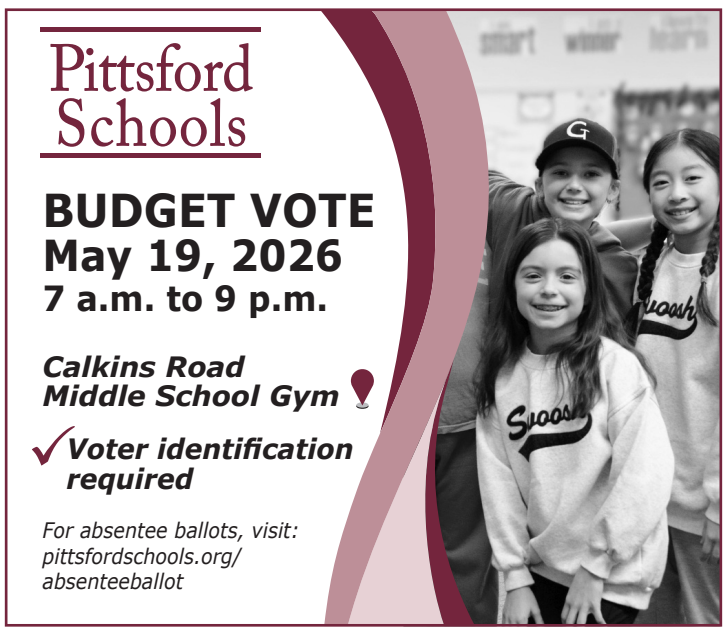
Tuesday, March 10, 6 - 7 p.m.
Budget Work Session

Tuesday, April 14, 7-9 p.m.
Budget Adoption and Regular Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 5:30-7 p.m.
PTSA Meet the Board of Education Candidates Night

Tuesday, May 12, 7 p.m.
Budget Hearing and Regular Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Budget Vote and Board Election at Calkins Road Middle School
Voter identification is required.



Energy Performance Contract Supports Sustainability



Rooftop solar panels at Mendon Center Elementary School

As part of Pittsford Schools' environmental sustainability efforts, the District's Energy Performance Contract (EPC) has been approved and work has begun.

Over the past year, all District facilities underwent comprehensive energy evaluations to identify energy conservation measures that could be implemented through an EPC. These measures are designed to reduce energy consumption while generating long-term cost savings. An EPC allows school districts to redirect existing utility and operational expenditures into energy-saving capital improvements without increasing taxes.

As a result of this process, the District has entered into an Energy Performance Contract that includes 11 energy efficiency measures across all facilities. The project features District-wide LED lighting upgrades, building envelope improvements, water conservation initiatives, heat pump replacements, building temperature control optimization, renewable solar photovoltaic (PV) installations, and additional energy-saving measures.

(Continued on page 3)

Shaping the Future of Pittsford Schools: Strategic Planning Begins with Community Feedback



Pittsford Central School District has begun an important, districtwide effort to develop a five-year strategic plan that will help guide the future of Pittsford Schools. This work focuses on identifying priorities, strengthening programs and ensuring the District continues to meet the evolving needs of its students and community.

To accomplish this objective, Pittsford Schools will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment in partnership with outside organizations. This review will include both quantitative and qualitative data, such as academic performance, financial and staffing trends, student wellness indicators, youth risk data, culture and climate survey results, focus group feedback, and insights gathered through conversations with staff and community members.

As the first step in this strategic planning process, Pittsford families, students and staff were surveyed in January to gather feedback that will help inform where Pittsford CSD has been, where it is today, and where it should go next.

Next steps will include analyzing data, continuing conversations with community members, and working collaboratively to develop a strategic plan that ensures Pittsford Central School District remains a place where every student feels safe, supported, and inspired to learn.

Once the needs assessment is complete, the District will share findings publicly and outline next steps, including additional opportunities for community feedback and engagement.

"I look forward to working collaboratively with staff, students and the greater Pittsford community throughout this process to create a thoughtful, inclusive, and student-centered path forward," said Superintendent Cutaia. "Together, this shared work will help ensure Pittsford Central School District continues to support the success and well-being of all students and its mission to prepare students to be their best, do their best and make a difference in the lives of others."

Assistant Superintendent for Business Michael Vespi to Retire



After nearly four years of dedicated and impactful leadership in school finance and operations, Pittsford Central School District's Assistant Superintendent for Business, Michael Vespi, has announced his retirement. The announcement was made at the February 24, 2026 Board of Education meeting. Vespi will continue serving the District through June 30, 2026.

"We are deeply grateful for Mike Vespi's outstanding service to the Pittsford Central School District," said Superintendent Shana Cutaia. "Since joining the District in 2022, Mike has provided exceptional leadership. His thoughtful, long-range approach to financial planning and strategic resource management has helped ensure that we continue to meet the evolving needs of our students, staff, and the Pittsford community. We thank Mike for his dedication and professionalism, and we wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement."

Since joining Pittsford Schools in September 2022, Vespi has played a vital role in overseeing the development and implementation of the District's annual budget and supervising key operational areas, including Business and Finance, Operations, Maintenance and Security, Transportation, and Food Services. His steady guidance and collaborative leadership have strengthened the District's financial foundation and operational effectiveness.

(Continued on page 4)

Two Pittsford Traditions, One Powerful Impact for Local Healthcare Initiatives



The Pittsford community once again demonstrated the power of school spirit and compassion, raising nearly $50,000 through two signature fundraising events that bring the Pittsford Community together annually to support critical health initiatives in the Greater Rochester area.

At the **16th Annual Pink the Rink** hockey games on January 31, the Panthers skated to a decisive 4–0 victory over the Fairport Red Raiders and raised $17,000 for the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester. Since its inception in 2010, Pink the Rink has become a hallmark of Pittsford Hockey, generating more than $120,000 through corporate sponsorships, admissions, T-shirt sales, Chuck-A-Puck contests, honor sign sponsorships, and game-day donations.

The tradition began with the vision of Celeste Frohm, a Friends of Pittsford Hockey Board Member, who was inspired by a similar event she witnessed at SUNY Fredonia. Sixteen years later, Pink the Rink continues to bring together players, families, and fans in support of individuals affected by breast and gynecologic cancers—highlighting the role athletics can play in fostering hope, compassion, and community connection.

Just weeks earlier, the **25th Annual Rainbow Classic** basketball games filled the University of Rochester's Palestra for a sold-out night of competition and remembrance on December 19, 2025. The event raised $32,000 for Golisano Children's Hospital, pushing Pittsford Central School District's total contributions to more than $650,000 over the past 25 years. Fans were treated to two exciting matchups, with the Girls Varsity teams finishing SHS 49, MHS 40, and the Boys Varsity teams closing the night SHS 58, MHS 48.

Established in memory of Park Road Elementary student Katelyn Pasley, the Rainbow Classic later expanded to honor the life of 2002 Sutherland graduate Ryan McCluski and now recognizes the memories of many beloved Pittsford students. Funds raised over the years have supported initiatives such as the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Teen Lounge, Pediatric Palliative Care Program, and the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Program. This year's proceeds will help fund the hospital's Mobile Care Unit, bringing essential services directly to families who may be unable to travel.



Together, Pink the Rink and the Rainbow Classic exemplify how Pittsford students, staff and community members make a tangible difference in the lives of others.

School Bus Stop-Arm Cameras Help Keep Students Safe

Pittsford Schools is partnering with the Monroe County School Bus Safety program and stop-arm enforcement technology provider, BusPatrol, to help reinforce safe driving behaviors and provide an added layer of protection for our students at bus stops. As part of this program, Pittsford school buses will be equipped with stop-arm cameras designed to capture and enforce violations when motorists illegally pass stopped school buses.

Under New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, drivers are required to stop for school buses displaying flashing red lights and an extended stop-arm, whether approaching from the front or rear, and regardless of roadway type. A 30-day warning period started on January 5, 2026. During this time, over 60 violators received warning letters without fines. Beginning February 9, drivers caught illegally passing a stopped school bus face a $250 fine for a first offense, with escalating penalties for repeat violations within 18 months.

"We are grateful to the county for implementing this important program to enforce laws that protect students when school buses are stopped," said Superintendent Shana Cutaia. "Every child deserves safe passage to and from school, and we are hopeful this initiative will enhance safety by encouraging motorists to slow down, stay alert, and follow the law, leading to safer roads for our entire community."

Pittsford joins Hilton, East Irondequoit, Webster, Greece, and Spencerport Central School Districts in participating in the program. All suburban school districts in Monroe County are eligible to participate with Board of Education approval.



PTSA: A Valued Partner in Supporting Students

With the second half of the school year now in full swing, the District recognizes and thanks the Pittsford Central PTSA and its many volunteers, leaders, and members whose ongoing dedication continues to make a meaningful difference for our students and schools.

During the first half of the school year, Pittsford's PTSA supported students and families through a wide range of programs, events, and initiatives. As a strong and valued partner of Pittsford Schools, their efforts have generated significant financial support, including the most successful Super Sale in a decade and the first-ever Parent Social, together raising well over $100,000 in current and pledged funds to support students now and in the years ahead. At the same time, the PTSA has remained deeply committed to caring for our community through efforts like coordinating with Pittsford Youth Services to provide Thanksgiving meals for families and supporting staff with a catered breakfast for our hard-working bus drivers on Superintendent's Conference Day.

Beyond fundraising and events, PTSA leaders and members are also actively engaged in District decision-making and advocacy. They participate in more than a dozen District committees, including the newly formed advisory group for the Universal Lunch Program, and they represented Pittsford at the New York State PTA Convention, where the Pittsford Central PTSA was recognized for outstanding online membership engagement.

PTSA committees bring important learning opportunities to our community by hosting guest speakers, facilitating discussions across grade levels, and advocating for expanded instructional supports, including additional Instructional Challenge teachers in our elementary and middle schools.

At the building level, PTSA members continue to strengthen school communities by offering after-school enrichment programs, family events, volunteer opportunities, teacher appreciation meals, middle school fun nights, and high school support for student-led initiatives, including the return of the Homecoming Dance.

Pittsford Central PTSA increased their Enrichment grant offering to $7500 to further expand opportunities for students across the District, reinforcing their commitment to supporting the whole child.

"The work of the PTSA reflects a deep alignment with our District's mission and values", said Superintendent Shana Cutaia. "Thank you to every PTSA member, volunteer, and leader for your time, generosity, and partnership. Your commitment enriches the educational experience of our students and helps make Pittsford a strong, connected, and caring school community."

Student Creativity Recognized with Scholastic Awards

Congratulations to the Pittsford students who won 2026 Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Scholastic Awards is the nation's longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens. It began in 1923 and is administered by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers in New York City.

Check "News & Announcements" on the homepage of the District's website (www.pittsfordschools.org) for the most up-to-date award list as additional notifications may be shared.

Mendon High School

Libby Du: Gold Key for "The Beautiful Lie" Digital Art; **Nick Gibson:** Silver Key for "December" Painting; Honorable Mention for "Tenderness" Drawing; **Matthew Irving:** Honorable Mention for "Interactions Between Contemporary Life & Natural Processes" Art Portfolio; **Frankie Maust:** Honorable Mention for "How Do Colors in Nature Change Over Time?" Art Portfolio; **Rain Royce:** Silver Key for "Veiled" Digital Painting, Drawing & Collage; **Chloe Shaw:** Honorable Mention for "In Security" Photograph; **Youyou Wu:** Silver Key for "Home Along the River" Painting; Silver Key for "The Pressure Within" Drawing; Silver Key for "Veins of Earth" Drawing

Sutherland High School

Julia Devaney: Silver Key for "The People You Pass" Illustration; **Riley Kottkamp:** Honorable Mention for "Pain Has No Face" Painting

Barker Road Middle School

Serena Ghazarian: Silver Key, personal essay/memoir category; **Nora Kelly:** Silver Key, poetry category



"The Beautiful Lie" by Libby Du

Board of Education Honors District Treasurer Rachel Smith

District Treasurer Rachel Smith was awarded a certificate of appreciation at the February 3, 2026, Board of Education Meeting for her outstanding fiscal leadership on behalf of the Pittsford Schools' community. As a result of her exceptional financial management and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, Pittsford CSD received the cashVest® 90+ Award. This prestigious honor is awarded only to public institutions that achieve a cashVest® score of 90 or higher for four consecutive quarters, reflecting the highest standards of data-driven liquidity oversight and responsible financial practices.



(Sustainability Upgrades - Continued from page 1)

Collectively, the project is guaranteed to save Pittsford Central School District more than $700,000 annually.

After receiving New York State Education Department (NYSED) approval in the first week of December, the construction process began, including rooftop solar panel installation at Mendon Center Elementary School. Mobilization for the remaining components of the project started in early 2026, with lighting upgrades beginning in February.

The rooftop solar PV system at Mendon Center Elementary School is a 601 kW DC system, generating more than $67,000 per year in annual revenue. These savings will be credited directly to the District's electricity bills through the Value of Distributed Energy Resources (VDER) program.

In addition, the solar project qualifies for more than $450,000 in federal direct-pay incentives through the Investment Tax Credit program.

Together, these improvements position Pittsford Central School District to significantly reduce its environmental impact while delivering substantial long-term financial benefits for students, staff, and the community.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2026-27 school year! To be eligible for kindergarten, children must be five years old on or before December 1, 2026.

Families can register their children in one of two ways:

1. Complete an online registration form available on the District website at *pittsfordschools.org/registration*.
2. Print and complete the registration forms available via that webpage then, scan and email to *marie_kutny@pittsford.monroe.edu* or mail the paperwork to: Office of the District Registrar, Pittsford Central School District, 75 Barker Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534.

After you complete the registration form, please make a kindergarten screening appointment using the online form available via the webpage *pittsfordschools.org/registration*. You will be contacted to confirm your child's screening appointment. Kindergarten screening is mandated by the NYS Department of Education. Children are screened in three areas: concepts, language and motor skills.



Board of Education Honors Pittsford Pride Recipients

Nine students received the Pittsford Pride Citizenship Recognition Award during the February 3, 2026, Board of Education Meeting for demonstrating excellent citizenship and positive leadership.

Congratulations to the following students:

- **Elsa Baker**, Gr. 8, Calkins Road Middle School
- **Easton Bell**, Gr. 5, Park Road Elementary School
- **Tonya Bonanno**, Gr. 5, Thornell Road Elementary School
- **Chloe Cunniffe**, Gr. 12, Sutherland High School
- **Samantha McCandless**, Gr. 7, Barker Road Middle School
- **Rowen Nocciolino**, Gr. 2, Jefferson Road Elementary School
- **Thomas Park**, Gr. 4, Mendon Center Elementary School
- **Rain Royce**, Gr. 12, Mendon High School
- **Pierson Vavrina**, Gr. 5, Allen Creek Elementary School.



Student Musicians Recognized for Outstanding Achievement

Three Pittsford high school students were recently honored at the David Hochstein Memorial Recital Competition, a prestigious event that celebrates outstanding musical talent and achievement.

The competition is open to advanced instrumentalists in grades 10–12 from a nine-county region surrounding Rochester. To qualify, students must prepare and perform challenging repertoire in a variety of styles before a jury of distinguished professional musicians. Winners receive a $500 award and are invited to perform in a spring recital at Hochstein, which will be recorded for later broadcast on WXXI Classical FM, 91.5.

Please join the District in congratulating the following students on this exceptional accomplishment:

Pittsford Sutherland High School

- **Michael Shi**, clarinet — Grand Prize, Woodwind/Brass/Percussion/Harp/Guitar category
- **Jasmine Wu**, piano — Grand Prize, Piano category

Pittsford Mendon High School

- **Youyou Wu**, violin — Honorable Mention, Strings category

Teacher Center Director Nicole Barry Recognized as a Leader of Responsible Use of AI in Education



Congratulations to Teacher Center Director Nicole Barry for being selected as a 2026 Women in Artificial Intelligence (AI) Fellow of the EDSAFE AI Alliance. The fellowship is designed for leaders in education, policy and industry who want to play an active role in shaping how AI is used in learning environments, centering accountability and learner well-being.

As a Fellow, Barry will collaborate with professionals around the world, learn from AI Education experts and apply the SAFE framework to real-world challenges in education. The tenets of the SAFE framework are safety, accountability, fairness/transparency and efficacy.

The EDSAFE AI Alliance unites stakeholders to achieve equitable outcomes for learners and enhance the professional experience of educators while highlighting the need safeguarding student privacy and establishing the guardrails necessary for safe and effective adoption of AI in education.

(Vespi Retirement - Continued from page 1)

In addition to his District leadership, Vespi has mentored aspiring school business officials by teaching long-range financial and strategic planning courses for the Association of School Business Officials of New York and serving as an adjunct professor at The College of Saint Rose.

A veteran of the United States Air Force, Vespi served from 1992 to 1996. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business/Public Management from SUNY Polytechnic Institute, a master's degree in Special Education from Syracuse University, and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from SUNY Oswego.

The Board of Education will immediately begin the search process for his successor.

Composting Reduces Food Waste in Pittsford Schools

Pittsford Central School District has launched a pilot composting program in school cafeterias as part of its ongoing commitment to sustainability and responsible waste management.

This initiative is supported through a combination of District funds and a $5,000 matching grant from Monroe County aimed at expanding food waste diversion efforts. The composting pilot has been a passion project of the Pittsford Schools' Sustainability Committee, which continues to explore meaningful ways to reduce environmental impact and model sustainable practices for students.



Rather than piloting composting at a single site, PCSD chose to implement the program in cafeterias districtwide (with the exception of Barker Road Middle School while being remodeled) to maximize the impact of the grant while keeping the process manageable for staff. Pittsford Schools is partnering with local company Impact Earth to support the rollout. Kitchen staff will separate compostable food and organic waste from regular trash using buckets and toters provided by Impact Earth.

Diverting food waste from landfills offers important environmental benefits, including improving soil health and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. "This pilot represents a meaningful step forward in strengthening the district's sustainability practices and reinforcing environmental stewardship as a shared community value," said Superintendent Shana Cutaia.

Pittsford Schools will continue to share updates as the pilot progresses and will evaluate potential next steps at the conclusion of the trial period.

Fifth-Grade Teacher Recognized with Golden Apple Award

Congratulations to Allen Creek Elementary School teacher Ms. Ennis who was surprised with a WROC-TV 8 Golden Apple Award on February 9 after being nominated by several of her students. To the hushed giggles and delight of her students, News-8 interrupted the class with camera in-hand to film the presentation of this special award.





On Stage this Spring!

Sutherland High School Musical:
Little Women

Sutherland High School Auditorium

April 17 at 7 p.m.
April 18 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

BRMS Grade 6 Musical:
Schoolhouse Rock Live! JR.

Calkins Road Middle School Auditorium (due to construction at Barker Road M.S.)

June 6 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Private & Parochial Transportation Requests Due April 1, 2026

Residents whose children plan to use Pittsford Central School District's transportation next year for private or parochial school attendance are required by the State Education Department to file a Private & Parochial Transportation Request Form with the District by April 1, 2026, in order to receive transportation services. Dual Location/Daycare forms are also due by April 1.

Private & Parochial Transportation Request Forms are available online at *www.pittsfordschools.org* in the Parent Center under Transportation.

Sex Offender Registry

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services maintains a Sex Offender Registry on the Internet. You are encouraged to regularly check the registry at *https://www.ny.gov/services/search-sex-offender-registry* for updated notifications in our District and surrounding towns.

CLASS OF 2026

Pittsford Schools

GRADUATION

SATURDAY
JUNE 20 2026

10 a.m. - Mendon High School
2 p.m. - Sutherland High School

RIT GORDON FIELD HOUSE

We are Hiring

- Teachers
- Paraprofessionals
- Bus Drivers
- Bus Attendants
- Clerical Staff
- Cleaners, Custodians, Maintenance
- Lunch Monitors
- Substitutes for all positions

Pittsford Schools





Competitive Pay & Benefits
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Pittsfordschools.org/Job Opportunities
(585) 267-1008

The Pittsford Central School District does not discriminate in access, admission, employment, or treatment of participants in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, age, sex, color, handicapping condition, or ethnic or national origin. This is in compliance with Title IX, OCR Guidelines, and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Inquiries regarding compliance issues may be addressed to: Shawn Clark, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Administration Building, Pittsford Central Schools, 75 Barker Road, Pittsford, New York 14534.

State and National Award Winning Publication

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Pittsford
School District News







Spring 2026

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