

SUMMER 2026

Royal Report



*Royals
Graduate!*

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Letter from the Superintendent

DEAR ROYAL FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY,

As another incredible school year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on all that we have accomplished together as a school community and feeling excited for everything that lies ahead for Romulus Central School District.

One of the greatest joys of the year was celebrating the Class of 2026 at graduation. Watching our graduates walk across the stage surrounded by proud families, friends, staff, and community members was a wonderful reminder of why we do this work. Our graduates leave us with memories, friendships, and experiences that will stay with them for a lifetime, and while they may be beginning new adventures, they will always be Romulus Royals.

This year also brought a historic first for our district as we celebrated our inaugural class of students earning the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness. These students demonstrated an outstanding commitment to leadership, service, and civic engagement, and they have set a remarkable standard for the students who will follow in their footsteps. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and excited to see this program continue to grow.

Summer may mean vacation for students, but learning never truly stops at Romulus! Throughout the summer months, our teachers, support staff, and administrators are participating in professional learning opportunities, preparing classrooms, refining programs, and planning for an even stronger school year ahead. Their dedication to continuous growth is one of the many things that makes our district so special.

We are also thrilled to welcome several new staff members to the Romulus family this year. New faces bring new ideas, talents, and perspectives, and we cannot wait for our students and community to get to know them. Please join me in extending a warm Romulus welcome to our newest Royals!

Looking ahead, we remain energized by the progress we are making through our Strategic Action Plan. Over the last year, we have expanded opportunities for students, strengthened programs, enhanced communication, and continued to build upon the traditions that make Romulus such a special place to learn and grow. The momentum is real,

and we are excited to continue moving forward together.

One of our major areas of focus for the coming year will be literacy instruction at the elementary school and our continued implementation of the Science of Reading. This research-based approach is helping us ensure that every student develops the foundational skills needed to become a confident, capable reader. Through professional development, collaboration, and intentional instructional practices, we are investing in literacy success for all students and building strong readers for the future.

None of this work happens without the support of our incredible students, families, staff, Board of Education, and community members. Your partnership, encouragement, and belief in our schools make all the difference. Together, we continue to create meaningful experiences and opportunities for our students each and every day.

Thank you for making this year one to celebrate. I hope you and your families enjoy a wonderful summer filled with rest, adventure, and time with those who matter most.

We can't wait to welcome everyone back this fall for another exciting year of learning, growth, and opportunities at Romulus CSD.

Enjoy the summer and, as always,
#RoyalsRise!

With Royal Pride,

Mrs. Jenn Hayden
Superintendent of Schools
Romulus Central School District





Romulus One-Room Schoolhouse in Need of TLC



On the north side of the Romulus Central School District campus, beneath the deciduous and evergreen trees, is a piece of local history: the MacDougall Schoolhouse. The white, one-room schoolhouse was built in Fayette, NY, in 1823. At that time, the area had 16 separate districts, McDougall being #14. Romulus students who live in Fayette would have received their education within these walls.

In 1997, as part of the 60th anniversary of the consolidation of Romulus CSD, the schoolhouse was donated to the district and moved to the school grounds where it has resided since. Since that time, the exterior of the building has fallen into disrepair. It is now in need of a new roof and window frames, new paint on the exterior, and repair of the entranceway. The roof is the most pressing need.

The district has partnered with the Fayette Historical Society, which has taken an active role in preserving, restoring, and maintaining the MacDougall Schoolhouse. The Historical Society is also providing a historical, one-room schoolhouse experience for students at RCSD and other districts.

Each year, 4th grade students from Romulus take a field trip to the schoolhouse as part of their curriculum. Thanks to Drs. Dale and Grace Freier of the Fayette Historical Society, students get to participate in an authentic learning experience like students in Seneca County would have had in the

late 1800s. Dale, who is the treasurer of the Fayette Historical Society, dresses as the schoolmaster while Grace, who is the organization's president, portrays the schoolmistress. The students work on penmanship, oral readings, cursive handwriting, math, and games.

According to Mrs. Lisa Freier, a Romulus teaching assistant in math support and the caretaker of the schoolhouse, the students love it. "When the students came over, the class actually said, 'Can we spend all day here?'" said Mrs. Freier.

"Our hope is that in providing students with a fun, dynamic, and authentic 1890s schoolhouse experience that they will be encouraged to pursue and appreciate further learning of our local history," Dr. Dale Freier said.

Thanks to Mrs. Freier, the building is also open on holidays like Memorial Day, during the Concert on the Green, and whenever the school holds activities on the front lawn. The schoolhouse is filled not only with historically accurate furniture and decor, but also with displays of written interviews from former students, pictures of the building throughout the years, and photographs of moving the building from Fayette to Romulus in 1997.

Mrs. Freier is hopeful that partnering with the Fayette Historical Society will

help this schoolhouse get the love it needs. "We have all these museums, but we don't have a lot of local history preserved," she said.

"I feel like our role now is to be the generation who picks up where [the older] generation started," Dr. Dale Freier said. "And so to keep it special, to keep it safe, [the building] needs a new roof, it needs a new paint job to protect the wood, and that's kind of the next phase of what we need to do."

The Fayette Historical Society is now accepting donations for repairs to the MacDougall Schoolhouse. To make a donation, please visit <https://fayettehistory.com> or send a check made out to:

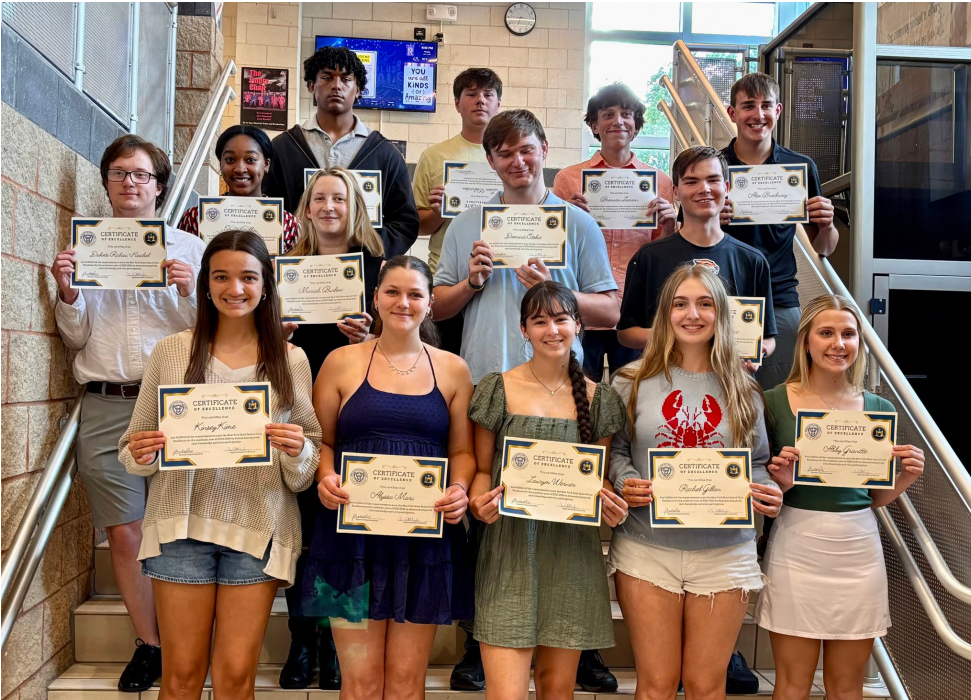
Fayette Historical Society
P.O. Box 108
Fayette, NY 13065

Please be sure to earmark your donation for the MacDougall Schoolhouse.



**Congratulations,
Class of 2026!**





MURRAY RECEIVES BRIGHTEST STAR AWARD

Averie Murray, a rising Romulus 7th grader, received the Seneca County Youth Bureau Brightest Star Award at the Seneca County Board of Supervisors meeting on July 14.

Students are nominated for the award based on consistently applying themselves in their academic ability, involvement at school and in the community, and demonstrating character traits like empathy, responsibility, respect, and compassion.

Congratulations to Averie for receiving this award! Your hard work and good character have paid off!

Royal Pride: Civic Readiness in Action

We are incredibly proud to recognize the first group of Romulus students to earn the prestigious New York State Seal of Civic Readiness, an honor that demonstrates a student's commitment to civic knowledge, civic skills, and active engagement in their school and community.

The Seal of Civic Readiness is awarded to students who have demonstrated an understanding of civic responsibility through coursework, community service, leadership experiences, civic participation, and a commitment to making a positive difference in the world around them. This distinction recognizes students who are prepared to be informed, engaged, and responsible citizens.

These students have demonstrated the qualities that make strong citizens and leaders, including critical thinking, civic engagement, service to others, and a dedication to improving their communities. They embody the values we strive to cultivate at Romulus Central School District and serve as excellent examples of what it means to be a Royal.

Congratulations on this remarkable achievement! We are incredibly proud of this inaugural group of students and the example they have set for future generations of Royals.



ROMULUS FFA ATTENDS STATE FFA CONVENTION

In May, the Romulus FFA went to the New York State FFA Convention at the Buffalo Convention Center. Students made presentations, participated in the convention's various activities, and several won awards. Three Romulus students received their Empire Degree, the highest level of award given by the FFA. We are proud of these students for their hard work and achievement, and for representing Romulus with pride.



Suzy Nicholson Steps Into Role as Athletic Director

Suzy Nicholson has been a part of the Romulus Central School District community since her family moved into the district in 1976.

Nicholson's Romulus roots run deep as she met and married her husband, Damon, the current girls varsity basketball coach, in Romulus and their three children (Tyler, Erica and Timmy) all graduated from Romulus and her two grandchildren (Carter and Owen) will be attending fourth grade and Pre-K this fall.

Nicholson lettered in soccer, volleyball, basketball and softball and participated in junior varsity cheerleading for a year while in high school.

She has also worked in the district for the past 25 years, serving as the Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent for 25 years, the District Clerk for 13 years, Extra Class District Treasurer for 20 years and secretary to four of the past five athletic directors.

Nicholson also has extensive experience as a coach for youth basketball (grades 5-8), modified girls and boys basketball, JV boys soccer, JV softball, Youth Bitty Ball and 4Town Soccer.

Nicholson will put all of these experiences to work in a new role, having been appointed Athletic Director at the July 8 Board of Education meeting.

Nicholson, who will remain in the roles of Superintendent's Secretary, Board District Clerk and Extra Class District Treasurer shared a few thoughts on taking on the AD position. *Answers have been lightly edited for length and clarity.*



What will be your top priorities as Athletic Director?

"Communication and promoting our student-athletes. I would like to increase interest and have more younger students participate in team sports and to also create strong bonds with our Sports Booster Clubs."

What benefits do education-based athletics provide for students who participate?

"I strongly believe team sports offer so many benefits to our students, including accountability, responsibility, time management, productivity, ownership, respect for both oneself and others, passion and the camaraderie for building strong and lasting relationships. These are the building blocks of a well-rounded person. Sports and academics

help to incorporate these traits for our students through positive and successful interactions. I also feel that the right coaches can make positive and lasting impressions on our students."

What are some of your favorite memories of Romulus athletics through the years?

"I have so many, including following girls basketball to the state finals two times and watching them win it all in 2014. It was an amazing time at Romulus! I also enjoyed following the boys basketball team on their journey to the Western Regionals. It has been rewarding to coach youth basketball and watch the players move through the programs, see them mature and even now have their children come through the programs. I also

like seeing the student-athletes succeed outside of the sports arena - on stage, in the band or chorus and academically! I have enjoyed watching my children and grandson play over the years and I can't wait for what tomorrow brings.

What does being a Romulus Royal mean to you?

"My blood runs Blue! This is truly a school with big ideas and the sky is the limit. If you believe, you can achieve. As a faculty, we care about each of our students and want to see them succeed. Everyone is always eager to lend a helping hand and make it work. It is synonymous with FAMILY! I remember a poster hanging in the hallway outside of our office that said, 'It takes a village to raise a child.' That is the environment we have here."



Royal Athletics DATES TO REMEMBER

First Practice V Football
First Practice Mod Football
First Practice JV/V Sports
First Practice Mod Sports

Monday, August 17, 2026
Thursday, August 20, 2026
Monday, August 24, 2026
Monday, August 31, 2026



Board Updates for the 2026-2027 School Year

July's first Board of Education meeting ushered in the 2026-2027 school year with some exciting changes for Romulus CSD.

Our new student Board members for the coming year are Olivia Haws (L) and Elizabeth Barbay (R). Congrats to you both for stepping into this role!

Incumbents Tom Wilson and Erik Karlsen were re-elected and sworn in. Tenneille Brewer was elected as Board President and Kim Wolverton as Vice President.

Our new music teacher, Jessica Ciancaglini, was appointed to teach Elementary music and instrumental (pictured). Not in attendance was Amanda Moore, who was appointed to teach Earth Science.



Romulus Central School District Strategic Plan

Our Mission

Romulus Central School District honors the individuality of each student, empowering them to thrive in learning and in life through a future-focused environment.

Our Vision

Inspiring learners to positively impact our ever-changing world.



Our Values

These values are the essence of our identity, guiding our actions, informing our decisions, and shaping our path forward.



SAFETY

We prioritize the safety and security of our school community. This ensures physical and emotional well-being through a culture of respect, trust, and inclusivity where everyone can thrive.

SUPPORTIVE CONNECTIONS

We build positive and supportive relationships with students, staff, and our community. Strong, long-lasting connections drive learning, foster wellbeing, and unite us in facing challenges and celebrating successes together.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We take responsibility for ourselves and each other, honoring our commitments and having pride in all that we do. Taking ownership of our successes and our mistakes creates opportunities for learning and shared achievement.

INNOVATION

We collectively utilize imagination, curiosity, and flexible thinking to solve problems creatively and develop new ideas while adapting to evolving circumstances and challenges. Innovation inspires life-long learners who impact our local and global community, creating hope for our future.

PERSONALIZED OPPORTUNITIES

We tailor learning and life experiences to everyone. By personalizing opportunities equitably, we empower every member of our school community, ensuring that success is not determined by circumstance but by potential.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

8 | ROMULUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Student Life, Royals Rise



ROMULUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Guidance: ext 338
Transportation: ext 310
Healthy Kids: 585-356-9147

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CR-RT-PRST BOXHOLDER