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Churchville-Chili Central School District

Summer 2026

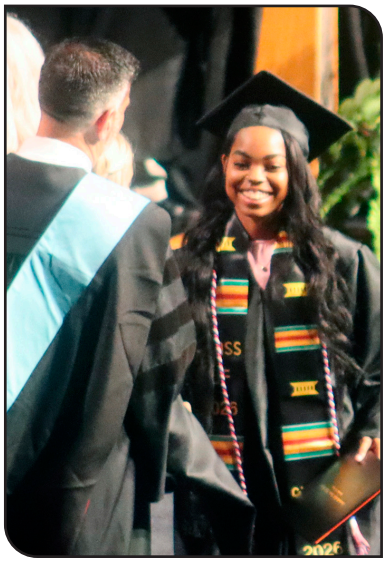
*Where **learning** leads to a **lifetime of opportunities...***

Congratulations, *Churchville-Chili Class of 2026!*



Cheers, applause, and celebration filled RIT's Gordon Field House on June 20 as our Saints family came together to honor the Class of 2026 and their journey to graduation.

Music played a meaningful role in the celebration. The Senior Choir, featured artists, and Senior High Band delivered powerful, moving performances under the direction of Allison Chipman and Erik Reinhart, helping set the tone for the evening.



Student voices also made a lasting impact. Seniors Christopher Keller and Dylan Percassi shared thoughtful reflections that inspired classmates, families, and guests alike, helping make the ceremony unforgettable.

This celebration would not have been possible without the many people who contributed their time and talents. Thank you to everyone who helped create such a meaningful event.

As our newest graduates begin their next chapter—whether in college, the military, or the workforce—we wish them continued success. Let's keep cheering them on.

Go Saints!

"I can't tell you your future won't challenge you, because it will. There will be moments when you feel lost again - when you feel like that freshman version of yourself. But here's what we know now. We know how to walk into something seemingly unknown and make it a home. We know how to lead our lives and create change. We know how to move forward. Even when we're unsure, and especially after we fail. And that's why I know we'll be just fine."

- Dylan Percassi, Class of 2026







"Courage isn't the absence of fear. It's the willingness to move forward despite it. It's trusting that even when we feel uncomfortable - even when we don't have all the answers - we have the ability to adapt, to learn, and to thrive, no matter what is thrown at us."

- Christopher Keller, Class of 2026





NEWS & VIEWS What's Inside:

- Employee and Student Recognition
- News from our Schools
- Staffing Update
- Athletes and Musicians Shine
- Transportation Reminder
- ParentSquare Update

Message from the Superintendent



Dear Churchville-Chili Community,

As we close the 2025–26 school year, we pause to reflect on what we achieved together. We proudly celebrated the Class of 2026 and their future plans. Whether our graduates are headed to college, the military or the workforce, we wish them success, purpose and joy on the road ahead.

While students are on break, our work continues. This summer, you will see progress in three key areas:

- **Teaching and learning:** Our educators are refining curriculum and assessments to align with new state standards and strengthen student achievement, while working toward the new Portrait of a Graduate framework.
- **Student opportunities:** Students are engaged in summer school, Continuing Education and enrichment camps that support growth, curiosity and connection.
- **Facilities and spaces:** Construction continues on our capital project, with upgrades at our athletic facilities and the middle school to support safe, modern learning environments.

Across all settings, we stay focused on our districtwide commitment to being Respectful, Responsible and Ready. Together, we are building a welcoming school culture where strong relationships help every student thrive.

We look forward to welcoming all students this fall—especially our rising seniors in the Class of 2027, our new Prekindergarten Class of 2041, and our Kindergarten Class of 2040. Each group brings new energy and promise to our schools.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of our students, staff and schools. Stay connected this summer at www.cccsd.org for construction updates, events and helpful resources.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Go Saints!

Dr. Carmine Peluso
Superintendent of Schools
Churchville-Chili Central School District



Roberts Wesleyan University recognized as a Community Champion for Public Education

Roberts Wesleyan University was honored as Churchville-Chili Central School District's Community Champion for Public Education nominee by Act for Education.

The Community Champion for Public Education celebration recognizes local businesses, organizations, and community leaders who serve as exceptional supporters of our local public schools and students.

Each year our third-grade students participate in a free community performance at Roberts Wesleyan University. The Roberts Symphony Orchestra hosts this educational concert as a way to educate students about the instruments in the symphonic orchestra and to get them excited about selecting an instrument to begin studying in 4th grade. We use this experience as an unofficial kickoff to our 3rd grade instrument recruitment process as there's nothing better than watching and listening to musicians performing at a high level to get students excited about learning to play an instrument.

This year, Churchville Elementary School also partnered with Roberts Wesleyan University to bring college students into the elementary classroom. Staff at Roberts Wesleyan helped bring the initiative to life, working with the team at CCCSD to develop a framework for the program, and place college students who were eager to learn, build relationships and work with our elementary students. This partnership is one that will support CCCSD students not only now, but in the future as well.

Representatives from the University - Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities Dr. Elvera Berry and Dean of the School of Education and Social Work Dr. Adam Huck - attended the Community Champion breakfast at the Junior Achievement center on Friday, May 8.

CCCSD appreciates the dedication Roberts Wesleyan University has shown to providing our students with opportunities to learn and grow while at school.



Congratulations 2026 summa cum laude graduates

Graduating at the top of their class with GPAs of 97 or above:

(pictured left to right - front row): Julian Samalot Monroig, Annie La, Maren Freece, Chloe Dykeman, Ashley Hiser, Yelizaveta Tyshkova, Maggie Watkins, Tessa Wood, Shavonne Callahan, Megan Neidel, Haley Inges, Dylan Percassi, Audrey Ennis, Melana Willard, Taylor Stocks, Corrina Penner

(pictured left to right - back row): Ryan Pastecki, Olajuwon Akinpelu, Alex Sikorski, Gavin Bonnewell, Caleb Krenzer, Joseph Andrecolich-Montesano, Mason Simmons, Ryan Vujanovic, Christopher Keller, Kyler Thomas, Benjamin Hiezmann, Frank Cirri, Braeden Naujokas, Jack Sloan, Natalie Esposito, Laila Rowe

(not pictured): Isaac Bailey, Kayla Cervini, Madison Gagnon, Evan Girolamo, Malena Leastman, Mercy Payne, Kaitlyn Pozzuolo, John Rhine and Aubrey Sudol



Senior Decision Day 2026: Catch a wave to your future

Commitment to Priorities

This spring, we celebrated the Class of 2026 as they prepare to ride the next wave beyond high school—whether that path leads to college, a vocational program, the workforce or military service.

During Senior Decision Day, students proudly shared their post-graduation plans, marking an important milestone and the start of a new chapter. With this year's theme, Catch a Wave to Your Future, the event invited seniors to move forward with confidence, purpose and a spirit of adventure as they navigate what comes next.

It was a joyful and meaningful celebration of each student's journey—honoring how far they have come and the exciting opportunities ahead as the Class of 2026 sets out to make their mark.



Inspiring the next generation: Senior Saints return to their roots

Members of the Class of 2026 took a heartfelt walk down memory lane during the annual March of the Senior Saints, visiting the Middle School and their former elementary schools—Churchville Elementary, Chestnut Ridge and Fairbanks Road.

Wearing their caps and gowns, seniors were welcomed with cheers, smiles and high-fives from younger students lining the hallways. The visits created a joyful and memorable moment for all, as seniors reflected on where their journey began and how far they have come.

Many students paused to reconnect with former teachers, share advice and encourage younger learners to stay focused, work hard and enjoy the years ahead. For elementary students, seeing the seniors offered a powerful glimpse of what is possible.

The March of the Senior Saints is a proud tradition and a meaningful reminder of the strong connections that define Churchville-Chili—where every student's journey is supported, celebrated and rooted in community.



Malena Leastman recognized as CCCSD Outstanding Senior



Churchville-Chili High School Senior Malena Leastman was presented with the Dr. Michael C. O'Laughlin Outstanding Senior Recognition, alongside seniors from throughout the county during the Outstanding Senior Award Reception and Recognition Dinner at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES on May 14.

This prestigious honor is awarded annually to one exceptional senior from each high school in Monroe County, recognizing outstanding leadership, dedicated service, and academic excellence.

During her time at Churchville-Chili, Malena demonstrated a strong commitment to academic excellence. She consistently challenged herself by enrolling in high-level courses with the goal of maximizing her learning, including her involvement with the Project Lead the Way program. She was inducted into both the National Honor Society and the World Language Honor Society, recognizing her achievement in Spanish, and she will graduate summa cum laude.

Outside of the classroom, Malena was an integral part of the Robotics team, which advanced to Nationals the past two years. She also contributed to the school's wind ensemble and was a dedicated varsity athlete, competing in softball for four years as well as participating in indoor track and cross country.

Malena plans to attend the University of Tennessee Knoxville for Electrical Engineering.

Churchville-Chili had another senior receive the Dr. Michael C. O'Laughlin Outstanding Senior Award this year. Max Baetzold is in the BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education Culinary Arts program and was selected as the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES recipient.

Class of 2026 students earn **Seal of Biliteracy**

Churchville-Chili Central School District participates in the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB), which recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. This year, 26 graduating seniors have earned the Seal of Biliteracy. Seals were earned in French and Spanish.

(pictured left to right - front row): Paige Sugarman, Kahlia Boyle, Taylor Stocks, Melana Willard, Ashlee Hiser, Juliana Reyes, Annie La, Dylan Percassi, Greta Morgan, Julia Gaffney, Brooke Giles, Katie Chesher, McKenzie Elliott, Sloane Miller

(pictured left to right - back row): Jaise Newman, Julian Samalot Monroig, Alex Sikorski, Gavin Bonnewell, Caleb Comas, Maren Freece, Cameron Vorndran, Lydia Eddy, Tessa Wood, Malena Leastman, Nathan DelGudico, Bianca LiBritz



Faculty Awards

This year's High School Faculty Award winners, Natalie Esposito and Dylan Percassi, were chosen by faculty and staff members who judged them to be outstanding in citizenship, scholarship, leadership, character, responsibility and service.



Make All the Difference Scholarship

Churchville-Chili senior Max Baetzold received a $5,000 Make All the Difference scholarship from the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Educational Foundation. Max was chosen for excelling in their alternative or non-traditional educational paths.



Your Educational Partner of Choice BOCES 2

Mr. Micah Court recognized as Teacher of the Year



SHS Math Teacher Micah Court is the 2026 National Honor Society Teacher of the year for Churchville-Chili High School.

His students said Mr. Court is deserving of this recognition because of his "remarkable ability to take complex mathematical concepts and break them down into steps that are easy to understand. He is always willing to stay after class or offer extra help, ensuring that every student feels confident and supported in their learning journey."

Students continued by saying "*Mr. Court deserves Teacher of the Year for the way he consistently elevates students' understanding and confidence in math, especially in rigorous courses like AP Calculus. His passion, patience, and commitment to helping every student grow sets a standard of excellence that truly stands out.*"

Recognizing student excellence and achievement at the NGA

We were proud to celebrate scores of outstanding students from the Ninth Grade Academy in an end-of-year ceremony. The Churchville-Chili Education Association Award recipients were Scarlet Hiltz and Yadiel Plyler-Vargas. The award recognizes the academic achievement and success of hard working individuals with the commitment to succeed. More remarkable freshmen were honored with awards for excellence in art, English, math, music, science and more. See the full list of winners at cccsd.org.







CCCSD Recognized for Safety Excellence

Commitment to Priorities

Churchville-Chili Central School District has earned a 2026 School Safety Excellence Award at the Titanium level through the Utica National School Safety Excellence Award Program, recognizing the District's strong commitment to creating safe, supportive learning environments for students, staff and visitors. To qualify for the Titanium level, districts must meet rigorous, measurable criteria across multiple safety areas, including bullying prevention, transportation, playground safety and more. CCCSD's recognition reflects the District's dedication to maintaining high standards and fostering a learning environment where students can thrive.

MS students recognized for academic excellence

We proudly celebrated our outstanding Middle School students during this year's end-of-year awards ceremony. Honors included the Churchville-Chili Education Association Award, selected by our teachers, the New York State Attorney General's Triple C Award, recognizing students who show courage, character and commitment in the face of challenges, and many more! Visit www.cccsd.org for the full list of award winners.



Sue Martin receives Our Community Salutes award



Congratulations to Sue Martin, who received the Our Community Salutes, USA – General Colin L. Powell Memorial Service Award during the Our Community Salutes ceremony at ESL Ballpark this spring.

The award recognizes high school guidance counselors who go above and beyond in supporting students who choose to serve our country, and who help communicate the importance of military service and leadership. Mrs. Martin was nominated for the award by Chief Petty Officer Ryan Hardy of the Navy who graduated from CCCSD in the Class of 2013.

Former news anchor Don Alhart emceed the ceremony, which recognized Class of 2026 high school students enlisting in the military after graduation. Mrs. Martin was joined by two CCCSD students planning to enlist.

Maria Knudson named CCCSD Transportation Employee of the Year

Commitment to Core Beliefs

Congratulations to Churchville-Chili Transportation Secretary, Maria Knudson, for receiving the Professional Pupil Transportation Employee of the Year recognition from the Rochester Area Transportation Supervisors Association (RATSA).

Maria was nominated by her colleagues in the Transportation Department because she goes above and beyond daily by helping in ways well outside of her job duties. Maria has outstanding attendance and is always willing to help when needed, from planning special events to assisting with technical questions when they arise.



Maria has been with the Transportation Department since 2021.

Employee Recognition

We are proud to honor the hard work and dedication of our Churchville-Chili staff members earning tenure or retiring. Thank you all for your service!

Tenure Recipients (pictured with Board Member Amy Wilson, Board President Kathy Dillon and Superintendent Carmine Peluso):
(pictured left to right- back row) Nicole Livingston-Neal, Marissa Kerwin, Kathryn Behlok, Jason Runyan, Teresa Ciejek, Danielle King, Kristen Ockrin, Jeffrey Bruckman, Victoria Mosetti, Nicole Giacolone, Cynthia Filardo, Matthew DeAmaral

(pictured left to right- front row): Elizabeth Decosse, Amber McCarthy, Julia Troiano, Marni Kerr, Michellene Barrett-Haughton, Jay Natkin, Amanda Popielarz, Claire Zeller, Ashley Cook

(not pictured): Jamie Anzalone, Rafael Arzuaga, Brett Chipman, Claire Cohen, Cassandra Farrell, Amanda Galvan, Christina Interlichia-Gill, Emma Huether, Marissa King, Giovanna Maloney, Jamie Miner, Sabrina Nowack, Eric Tytler, Brittany Valente, James Wisner



Retirees (pictured with Superintendent Carmine Peluso):
(pictured left to right - back row): Nancy Roux, Todd Yunker, Kathy Occhioni, Heather Burns, Lawrence Vito, Ernie Orlando, Aaron Twigg

(pictured left to right - front row): Tim Strohm, Susan Costello, Douglas Coccia, Cristin DelGaizo, Diane Clark, Lisa Kunz, Kate Daly

(not pictured): Pamela Brunelle, Bruce Clement, Mary Dostman, Kelly Dunham, Ronald Hubbell, Laurie Kastner, Jaroslaw Krupa, Sharyl Maus, Herbert McPherson, Frederick Pimm, Cathie Williams



Staffing Updates for the 2026-27 school year

As we prepare for the new school year, we are pleased to share several leadership updates across the district. These transitions reflect both the continued growth of our staff and our commitment to strong, student-centered leadership in every school. Several familiar faces are stepping into new roles, helping ensure continuity, while we also welcome new leaders who bring valuable experience to our community.


Jeffrey Smith

District and Program Leadership

- **Jeffrey Smith** appointed Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources (effective July 1, 2026); previously Director of Fine Arts in Churchville-Chili
- **Rebecca Tibbitts** named Acting Director of Curriculum, Assessments, and Professional Development (effective August 3, 2026); previously Middle School Executive Principal
- **Danielle Rodgers** appointed Director of Fine Arts (effective July 1, 2026); brings more than 20 years of music education and leadership experience
- **Melinda Pier** appointed High School Coordinator of Special Education (effective July 1, 2026); previously special education teacher in Churchville-Chili
- **Hannah McCann** appointed Elementary Coordinator of Special Education (effective July 20, 2026); joins from Rochester City School District with leadership roles in special education


Rebecca Tibbitts


Danielle Rodgers

School Leadership Updates

- **Fairbanks Road School (FRS)**
  - **Andrew Guignon**, Principal (effective July 1, 2026); previously FRS Assistant Principal
  - **Samuel Consagra**, Assistant Principal (effective July 1, 2026); joins from Rochester City School District with experience in ENL and instructional leadership
- **Churchville Elementary School (CES)**
  - **Kim Giancursio**, Principal; longtime district educator and previous CES Assistant Principal
  - **Hannah Hill**, Assistant Principal (effective July 1, 2026); nearly 20 years of elementary experience and a proud Churchville-Chili graduate
- **Middle School**
  - **David Burgess**, Executive Principal; previously Senior High School Assistant Principal


Melinda Pier


Hannah McCann

We are grateful for the leadership, experience, and commitment each of these individuals brings to our schools. Please join us in welcoming our new and returning leaders as we look ahead to a strong start to the 2026–27 school year.


Andrew Guignon


Samuel Consagra


Kim Giancursio


Hannah Hill


David Burgess









NEWS from our schools



The high school held its first Law Enforcement Career Showcase this spring, bringing in representatives from local, state and federal agencies to speak with students. Students were invited to the showcase to learn about various career paths within the law enforcement field, including crime analysis, environmental conservation postal inspection, drug enforcement and more.



Churchville Elementary students received a special visit from Miss New York, Christiana DiNardo, who spent time reading to kindergarten classes and talking about her journey to the state title. DiNardo read "Oh Baby, the Places You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss, encouraging students to dream big and believe in themselves.



Fifth-grade students had the opportunity to hear from "Lost Boy" of South Sudan, Dr. Chol-Awan Majok, during a special assembly. Dr. Majok's experience ties directly into the recent social justice unit, during which students read "A Long Walk to Water."

Commitment to Learner-Centered Principles

This spring, **fourth-grade students at CRS** shared their writing lessons throughout the year in a fun, interactive way. Students recorded their writing pieces and then used coding to create a circuit to play what they have put together. Families were then invited to listen to what the students had put together.





Third graders at each school learn about money management during Market Day. Students receive a job, salary and money inside an envelope then visit stations and make choices on how to spend their money. Stations include housing, vehicles, health and food, entertainment, pets and chance.



Each spring, **first grade students from all three elementary schools** visit the Churchville-Chili Garden of the Saints. Students rotate through stations, learning about pollination, butterfly life cycles, plant growth and more.



Students at CES got their steps in during PE this spring during the annual Stroll for Strong. The school joined the Kids Team "Walking with Wesley" to show support for CES student Welsey and raise awareness for the Golisano Children's Hospital.



Eighth-grade students visited Boston for the American History Trip in June. Students visited Salem, explored the Freedom Trail, went on a duck tour and a historic harbor cruise, and visited museums, aquariums, planetariums, theaters and more.

Churchville-Chili athletes participate in college celebration

Congratulations to our Class of 2026 student-athletes who will continue their sports at college.

(pictured left to right - front row): Dom Marra, Jason Starkweather, Mason Simmons, Isaac Bailey, Jack Sloan, Trevor Caldwell, Mariah Elliott, Julia Gaffney, Shavonne Callahan, Dylan Percassi, Jillyan Ewing, Tessa Wood, Avery Jehlen

(pictured left to right - back row): Rahlin Finch, Andrew Jeffers, Carson Shepanski, Joseph Andercolich-Montesano, Josh Miner, Kyler Thomas, Frank Cirri, Avery Aloi, Aubrey Sudol, Alexis Olson, Erin Marone, Mercy Payne, Alexa Hogan



Seth Smith with volleyball coach Peter Cirri



The New York State Athletic Administrators Association awarded two Churchville-Chili staff members during the Chapter 5 Dennis E. Fries Awards this spring. Athletic Director Michael Murray received the Judith Ann Knight Positive Change Award for demonstrating a passion to enhance positive change, his strong leadership skills and his ability to mentor. Communication Specialist Ashley Decker also received a Chapter 5 Appreciation Award for her support of the athletic programs at CCCSD.



Congratulations, Outstanding Athletes!

Athletes of the Year



Isaac Bailey and Mariah Elliott

Career Athletes



Kyler Thomas and Shavonne Callahan

CCCSD Athletics recognized for Sportsmanship

Commitment to Core Beliefs

Our Churchville-Chili Athletic Program has been recognized by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) with the Award of Excellence for Exemplary Display of Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity. This honor reflects the dedication of our student-athletes, coaches, families and community to doing things the right way—on and off the field. Congratulations to all who help make CCCSD Athletics a model of pride and respect.

Celebrating a successful spring season

Our student-athletes delivered an outstanding spring season, with **baseball, golf, girls track & field,** and **boys tennis** all earning division titles.

Baseball standout **Bobby Rule Jr.** was named **Section V Class AA2 Player of the Year** and **Monroe County Division 2 Player of the Year**, while **Coach Rule** earned **Division 2 Coach of the Year** honors. In flag football, **Mariah Elliott** was recognized as Division 2 Defensive Player of the Year.

In lacrosse, **Isaac Bailey** earned the **Section V Bob Scott Award, Sportsman of the Year,** and **USA Lacrosse All-Academic honors**. **Shavonne Callahan** tied the girls lacrosse school record with **94 career assists**.

Laila Rowe set a new school record in the discus, and **Coach Hallock** was named **Division 4 Coach** of the Year for boys tennis.

We also celebrate **Kyler Thomas**, named an **NHSCA Academic All-American**. A Sectional Champion in both soccer and diving, Kyler advanced to states in both sports while excelling in the classroom.

Congratulations to all on a season of excellence!

Cinderella: Enchanted Edition shines at **Stars of Tomorrow**

CCCSD students shined at the Rochester Broadway Theater League Stars of Tomorrow again this year. The cast of Cinderella: Enchanted Edition swept the awards by earning Excellence in every category - Choreography, Acting, Vocal Ensemble, Production Crew, Student Orchestra, Production Design, and Theatrical Storytelling, and received the Showstopper Award for being one of the Top Productions for Large Schools in the Greater Rochester area. In addition, Mady Ciravolo, Mady Pier and Nicco Lupiani were recognized for Achievement in Performance in Leading Roles for their roles of Cinderella, Fairy Godmother and Prince Christopher , respectively.



An evening of music

The Churchville-Chili Music Boosters hosted the annual Community Music Festival this June, drawing in crowds to hear performances from ensembles of all age levels. The evening featured performances from vocal, band and orchestra ensembles, as well as food trucks, vendors and family-centered fun. Thank you to everyone who attended and showed support for our student musicians.



Churchville-Chili recognized as **Best Community for Music Education**

Churchville-Chili Central School District has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. This is the eleventh time Churchville-Chili Central School District has been honored with the designation. Now in its 27th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

High School music ensembles shine at NYSSMA Festival

Churchville-Chili High School music ensembles earned top honors at the NYSSMA Major Organization Festival held this May.

The Symphonic Band, directed by Stephanie Bezon, received a Level 4 Gold rating, and the Wind Ensemble, led by Allison Chipman, earned a Level 6 Gold with Distinction—the highest possible recognition.

Under the direction of Erik Reinhart, vocal ensembles also impressed. The Ninth Grade Treble Choir earned a Level 4 Silver rating, and the Concert Choir received a Level 6 Gold.

Congratulations to all our student musicians and directors on their outstanding achievements!

RPO **Telling stories with Tiny Tots**

Churchville-Chili welcomed UPK-2nd grade students from schools throughout the region to our Performing Arts Center for the RPO's Tiny Tots performance. During the performance, the RPO put music to the well-loved children's book Where the "Wild Thing Are", showing the impact of music in storytelling. Thank you to the RPO for providing this opportunity to our youngest students.



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The Link is published by the Churchville-Chili Central School District for district residents.

Churchville-Chili Central Schools
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Transportation reminder

If your child will need to be transported to or from daycare or a private/parochial school for the upcoming 2026-27 school year, you must complete the necessary transportation request forms as soon as possible to ensure busing for the first day of school. Please see our district website: *www.cccsd.org/transportation* for the required forms.



ParentSquare

ParentSquare update

Clear, timely communication supports student success, and we are excited to share progress on our new districtwide platform, ParentSquare. Families have already begun receiving attendance notices, mass messages, and urgent alerts through ParentSquare this year, and we are on track for a full launch at the start of the 2026–27 school year. Over the summer, families will receive an activation email with steps to set up their account. Families who activate will have full access to features, while those who do not will continue to receive messages by email, text, and phone. Family resources, including short videos and guides, are also available on our district website.