SWEET HOME SOURCE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

FALL 2026
ISSUE 09

BACK TO SCHOOL

We are excited to welcome our Panthers back into our halls and classrooms!

WELCOME NEW STAFF

We are proud to have many new staff members joining the Panther Family this year to work with our students & families.

FOND FAREWELL

We thank the 31 teachers and staff retiring this school year for a combined 689 years of service.

EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Sweet Home Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education and all of us at Sweet Home Central School District, welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! The summer season is always a time to pause, reflect, and look ahead with gratitude and excitement. This issue gives us the opportunity to celebrate the incredible achievements of our Sweet Home community while also sharing an exciting vision for the year to come.

Watching the Class of 2026 walk across the stage was, once again, one of the most powerful reminders of why we do this work every single day. Every diploma represented years of dedication and perseverance. This is not only from our students, but from the families, staff, and community members who supported them along the way. We congratulate each and every graduate on this tremendous milestone. You have made the Panther Family proud, and we cannot wait to see all that you accomplish.

This year we also say a heartfelt farewell and thank you to our retiring faculty and staff members. Their collective years of service to the students and families of Sweet Home represent an extraordinary legacy that's built on commitment, compassion, and a deep belief in the potential of every child. While we will miss them greatly, the mark they have left on this district will be felt for generations to come. We wish each of them a retirement filled with joy and well-deserved rest.

"Ready for the Future" is more than a motto; It is the lens through which every decision in this district is made. As we enter another year of our Strategic Plan, our focus sharpens around academic excellence. The work of the past several years has helped us build a strong foundation of data, honest reflection, and meaningful action. Now, we are using that foundation to drive real, measurable outcomes for every student in every classroom.

This year, you will see an intensified emphasis on academics and on ensuring that each student is reading, writing, thinking critically, and developing the skills they need to thrive in whatever path they choose after Sweet Home. We are not simply measuring progress; we are committed to accelerating it. Our teachers, administrators, and support staff are aligned around this shared purpose, and we are energized by the work ahead.

We also continue to see growth in student enrollment across the District, which is an encouraging sign that families are choosing Sweet Home for the quality of our programs and our community. That trust means everything to us, and it strengthens our resolve to deliver an educational experience worthy of it.

This year also marks a significant and exciting milestone for our facilities: the start of construction on our Capital Improvement Project. Thanks to the overwhelming support of our community, this transformational project is now becoming a reality. From expanded classroom space at the elementary level to upgraded security, technology, and athletic facilities; these improvements will touch every campus in the District and every student who walks through our doors. We are grateful beyond measure for the confidence our community placed in this plan, and we are committed to delivering on that trust with transparency and excellence every step of the way. As we break ground, we are reminded that we are building the future of Sweet Home.

As always, it is this community, our parents, students, faculty, and staff, that makes everything possible. Your support and your partnership fuel everything we do. We look forward to another remarkable year together, united by our mission: Every Student, One Community, Ready for the Future.

We wish you a joyful and successful 2026-2027 school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael V. Ginestre

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SWEET HOME WELCOMES BACK TEACHERS & STAFF

TEACHERS & STAFF GATHERED FOR THEIR OPENING DAY TO PREPARE FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL & CELEBRATE COLLEAGUES

A new school year brings new faces, new opportunities and a renewed sense of purpose. For Sweet Home staff, the 2026-2027 school year began with a focus on what lies ahead and the important work of preparing every student to be Ready for the Future.



Gathered together on the turf, staff were welcomed by Superintendent Dr. Michael Ginestre, the administrative team and the Board of Education and introduced to the district's focus for the year. With the Strategic Plan entering its third year and emphasis on the Portrait of a Panther, staff are working together to ensure students develop the knowledge, skills and qualities they need to succeed in their futures.

The morning also provided an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and welcome the newest members of the Sweet Home family.

It was a chance to recognize the people behind the work and celebrate the commitment that helps make Sweet Home a strong community for students and families.

That commitment was highlighted through the annual Sweet Home Heart Awards, which recognize staff members who embody the district's mission, "Every Student, One Community, Ready for the Future."

This year's recipients are:

2026 Heart Award Winners

Jill Hopcia
Glendale Elementary Teacher

Susan Wattle
Maplemere Elementary
Teacher Aide

Jim Ryan
Maplemere Elementary
Principal

Billy Phillips
Transportation Mechanic

Colleagues were happy to gather for this opportunity to look ahead, celebrate each other, and prepare for the work ahead. With **Ready for the Future** as this year's focus, Sweet Home is continuing to build on its work to help every student reach their potential.









PANTHER SMILES ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

WE ARE SO GLAD TO HAVE OUR PANTHERS BACK IN OUR HALLS AND CLASSROOMS!























WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEACHERS & STAFF

SWEET HOME WELCOMES A GREAT GROUP OF NEW TEACHERS & STAFF TO THE PANTHER FAMILY

High School

Andrea Vu - Social Worker
Annalise Scherer - Business Teacher
Elham Dehghanipour - French Teacher
Karen Schwier - Monitor-Hall
Leanne Hanlon - Psychologist
Nina Colucci - Assistant Principal
Paul Schmidt - Technology Teacher
Shannon Howe - Art Teacher
Sonali Patel - Teacher Aide
Zachary Culp - AAC Teacher

Glendale

Bianca Jackson - Teacher Aide
Cailynn Call - Administrator
Lauren Rutecki - Teacher Aide

Heritage Heights

Alexis Turan - Special Education Teacher
Anne Downing - Special Education Teacher
Cattra Childs - Teacher Aide
Debra Carlini - Teacher Aide
Jennifer Keller - Teacher Aide
Liam Kelly - Elementary Teacher
Madison Gonzalez - Elementary Teacher
Nickolas Endres - Elementary Teacher

Maplemere

Allyson Webb - Program Aide
Danielle Catanzaro - Teacher Aide
Griffin Harrigan - PE Teacher
James Doohan - Teacher Aide
Jennifer Reyes - ENL Teacher
Lauren Granieri - Special Education Teacher
Lily Ayotte - Teacher Aide
Nicole Murphy - Teacher Aide
Zachary Lippitt - Program Aide

Food Service

Audrey Macchiaroli - Food Service Helper
Jennifer Lawson - Food Service Helper

Middle School

Abbigail Ryan - Special Education Teacher
Cameron Hopkins - Teacher Aide
Connor Pignatora - Technology Teacher
John Calandra - Music Teacher
Leah Czechowski - PE/ Health Teacher
Peter Blanford - Music Teacher
Riley Connors - ELA Teacher
Tyler Kraft - Music Teacher

Willow Ridge

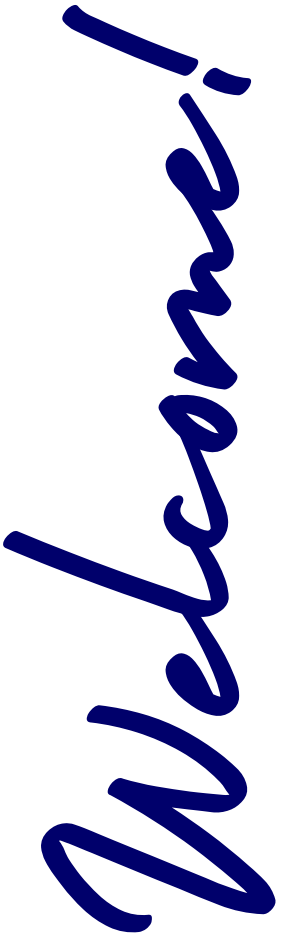
Christopher Dattilo - Teacher Aide
Janae Quinn - Teacher Aide
Loren Huff - Teacher Aide
Mary Picciotto - Elementary Teacher
Paige Bressett - Psychologist
Taylor Diesing - Teacher Aide

Transportation

David Greco - Driver
Gerald Kurzdorfer - Bus Monitor
Jennifer Lawson - Bus Monitor
Robert Maxwell - Bus Monitor
Ronald Ward - Bus Driver

District-Wide

Annie Willsey - Physical Therapist
Ashley Chorny - Occupational Therapist
Avery Andrews - Speech
Emma Asklar - Speech
Hannah Ciffa - Occupational Therapist
Haylee Senay - Occupational Therapist
Jessie Cecere - Occupational Therapist
Megon Gachette - Physical Therapist
Monica Budziszewski - Occupational Therapist
Rebecca Florentino - Occupational Therapist
Sarah Acero-Grant - Elementary Orchestra Teacher





The Sweet Home Black Alumni Association's leadership committee is comprised of: Stafford Trueheart ('82, President), Stanton Trueheart (Vice Chair, '83), Steven Pitts (Vice Chair, '89), Reggie Witherspoon ('79), Glen Jeter ('80), Dawn Taggart-Witherspoon ('80), Delria Crippen ('81), Tracy Jordan-Cardwell ('82), Lisa Parker ('82), Lauris Robinson ('82), Sonja Harling ('87), Dawn Scott-Iverson ('87), Hollice Wood ('90), Courtney Witherspoon ('04), & Alisha Paige Johnson ('88).

SERVING STUDENTS THROUGH OUTREACH

Along with connecting past alumni through community events, the Association gives back to current Sweet Home students through:

- Educational enrichment opportunities
- Mentorship and positive role models
- Financial literacy education
- College application assistance
- Scholar-athlete recruiting assistance
- Community service initiatives
- Alumni engagement that connects generations of Panthers
- Community partnerships that expand opportunities for students and families
- Scholarship opportunities as funding becomes available

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Scan the QR code to learn more about how to connect or give back through the Black Alumni Association.

SWEET HOME BLACK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BUILDS COMMUNITY

A GROUP OF ALUMNI TURN A REUNION INTO THEIR MISSION TO GIVE BACK

What began as an idea to reconnect classmates has grown into an organization dedicated to supporting the next generation of Panthers.

The Sweet Home Black Alumni was born after alumni from different graduating classes realized they wanted to reconnect beyond traditional class reunions.

In 2023, more than 100 alumni spanning classes from 1969 through 2005 gathered for the first all-class reunion, celebrating lifelong friendships and the Panther Pride that continues long after graduation. As the reunion came to a close, the focus shifted from reconnecting with one another to asking a bigger question: How can we make a difference for today's students? That vision led to the creation of the Sweet Home African American Alumni (SHAAA), a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization doing business as the Sweet Home Black Alumni.

Today, the organization is committed to strengthening Panther Pride, celebrating alumni legacy, and creating opportunities that help all Sweet Home students succeed.

The organization has worked closely with Superintendent Dr. Michael Ginestre and the Board of Education to share its vision and explore opportunities to partner with the district.

As the organization continues to grow, its leaders remain focused on creating meaningful connections between alumni and today's students. Through mentorship, educational opportunities, scholarships, community partnerships, and events that bring Panthers together across generations, the Sweet Home Black Alumni is helping ensure that current students know an entire community is invested in their success.

Their commitment to giving back continues to strengthen Panther Pride while helping prepare the next generation of Sweet Home graduates for the future.



"We look forward to continuing to build meaningful relationships with the district and our community. When alumni, educators, families, and community members come together behind our students, there's no limit to what they can achieve."

– Stafford Trueheart, President ('82)



READY ACADEMY STUDENTS CELEBRATE GRADUATION

Our Ready Academy Big Picture graduates enjoy a special ceremony each year recognizing their hard work and perseverance. Students are also encouraged to attend our traditional High School graduation, but Ready's ceremony provides a small, personalized moment to celebrate with teachers, staff, family, and friends.

This year, everyone in attendance also extended a bittersweet farewell to Principal Shepherd as he moves on to his new role as Middle School Principal.

We couldn't be more proud of what these students have achieved. Special thanks to our Ready Academy faculty, staff, keynote speaker Superintendent Ginestre, and Principal Shepherd.

STUDENTS MEET MANNY THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT CANINE

Our students (and staff!) were lucky enough to meet Manny recently - the Community Engagement and Support Canine for the Amherst Police Department.

Manny's partner, Officer Solak, explained Manny's role in soothing and supporting individuals in crisis, and how it differs from the duties of other canine officers. Manny was generously donated to the APD by the Devin Waring Foundation, and his role is relatively new. They hope to grow the program and help as many people as possible through the unique connection of a Support Canine.



BOARD RECOGNIZES STUDENT MEMBER JAEVON COLEMAN



Throughout the school year, Sweet Home senior and student body President Jaevon Coleman has also served as the student ex officio member of the Board of Education. The Board recently honored him with a plaque and recognized his contributions.

In his role, Jaevon has asked important questions, given updates, and shared valuable insight about student projects, initiatives, and future plans. Board members remarked that his thoughtful questions have been a key element to understanding the student perspective.

He plans to study business and pre-law at the University at Buffalo in the fall. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors!

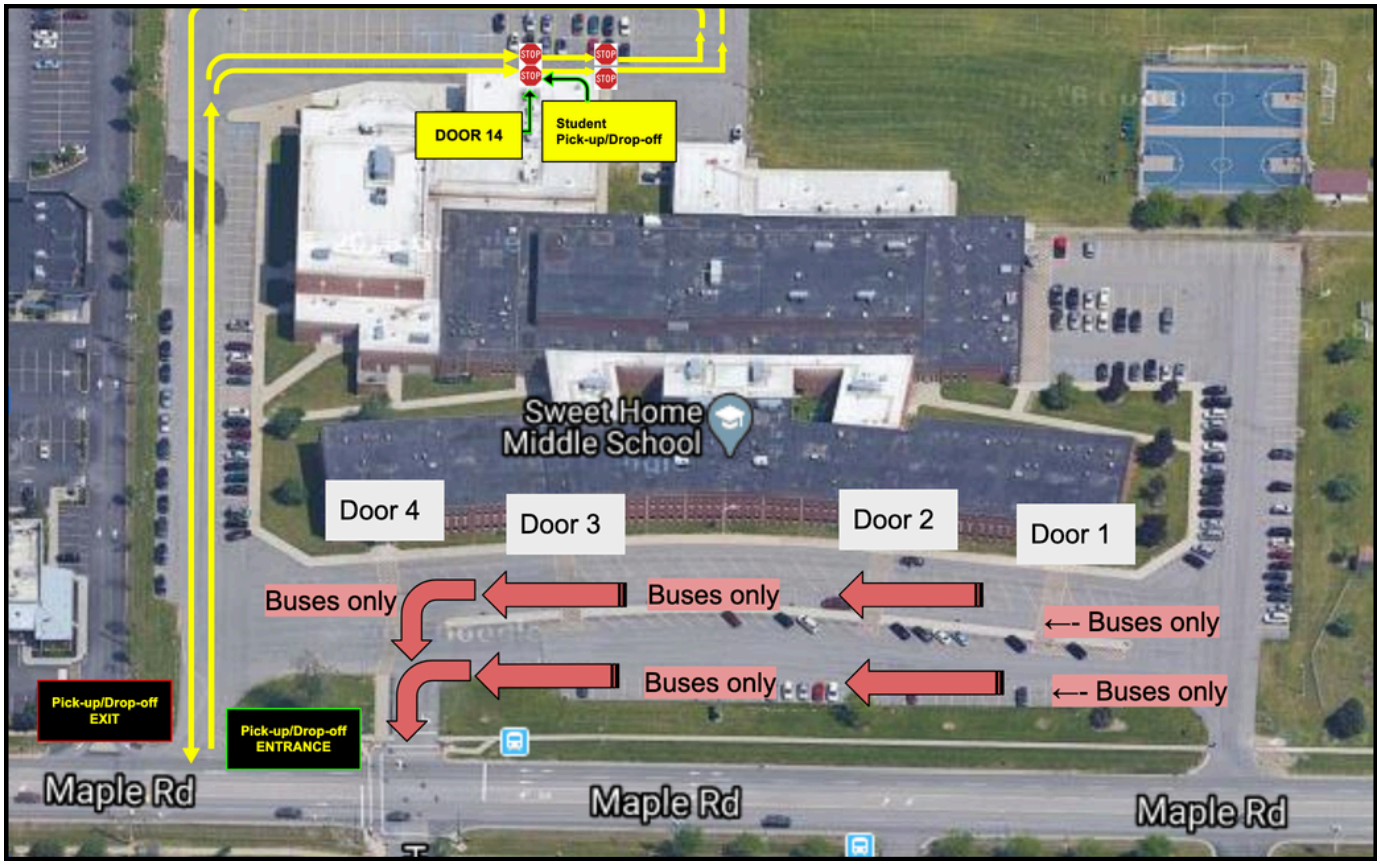
NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL DROP OFF/PICK UP PROCEDURES FOR 2026-27

CHANGES TO MIDDLE SCHOOL TRAFFIC FLOW AND E-BIKE POLICIES WILL GO INTO EFFECT THIS YEAR

There will be a new traffic flow at the Middle School this school year for drop off and pick up.

- Please make 2 lanes when dropping off students at DOOR 14 by car.
- Pull up all the way to the stop sign at DOOR 14 to drop off your child.
- Do not let your child out of the car until you reach the stop sign at DOOR 14.
- Please form 2 lanes, stop at the Stop sign after Door 14 then proceed to exit lanes to leave the campus.
- Please do not enter the bus drop off area (red arrows area).

Expect a lot of traffic, so please be patient! Staff will be outside to help direct traffic and greet students. As a reminder, doors open at 7:30 am.



SWEET HOME E-BIKE POLICIES AND INFORMATION

CHANGES TO MIDDLE SCHOOL TRAFFIC FLOW AND E-BIKE POLICIES WILL GO INTO EFFECT THIS YEAR

Sweet Home Central School District is implementing updated regulations for the use of e-vehicles, including e-bikes and e-scooters, on district campuses. These measures are designed to prioritize the safety of our students, staff and visitors while ensuring our practices align with New York State laws and regulations. We appreciate the cooperation of our school community as we work together to maintain safe, welcoming and responsible school environments. Please see regulations below.



- No one under the age of 16 is permitted to operate an e-bike/e-scooter on Sweet Home campuses. This means no Middle School student will be allowed to ride their e-vehicle to school.
- Anyone 16 or older riding on our campuses must wear a helmet.
- Riders must follow traffic guidelines and not ride on the sidewalk unless going to a designated parking space.
- Riders must register their e-vehicle with the main office at the High School.
- Riders are subject to discipline for violating any safety protocols up to and including the loss of privileges to ride their vehicle on our campus.
- E-vehicles not registered with the High School main office are subject to confiscation by the Amherst Police Department.
- E-vehicles are NEVER allowed in the back of the High School, especially on the turf field. Violators are subject to discipline and will have riding privileges revoked for an indefinite amount of time as determined by the principal.



VOLUNTEER STEVEN BARNAS AWARDED SPECIAL PROCLAMATION

This spring, Amherst Supervisor Shawn Lavin and the Town of Amherst Board of Trustees issued a special proclamation to Steven Barnas as part of their Good Deeds Initiative. Steven is a proud Sweet Home grad who has spent every day for the last eight years greeting students, teachers, staff, and community members in the Willow Ridge neighborhood. Steven makes sure our school community starts their day with kindness and a smile. His volunteerism is a model to everyone around him.

A contingent of teachers, bus drivers, staff, and administrators, including Superintendent Ginestre and Principal Polino, were on hand to share congratulations with Steven's family and friends.

MAPLEMERE GARDEN CLUB GETS THEIR HANDS DIRTY

Thanks to a mini grant from the Sweet Home Education Foundation, Inc., Maplemere Elementary teachers Arika Notaro & Claire Mullane were able to start a Garden Club this year. The grant allowed for the purchase of materials and supplies to build raised beds and plant some beautiful flowers that will last for years to come. Students learned about the process from start to finish and will be able to see their handiwork as things grow.

The SHEF Mini-Grant program is designed to help any staff member looking for resources to help improve the student experience and learning for students.



WILLOW RIDGE STUDENTS MEET LOCAL ARTIST JULIA BOTTOMS AND TOUR AKG



Our Willow Ridge fourth graders had an incredible opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world art during their visit to the Buffalo AKG Art Museum!

After studying local artist Julia Bottoms in their classroom, students were excited to explore the museum's galleries. Groups were paired with AKG docents who spent time asking our students questions and explaining more about pieces throughout the museum.

They were also able to participate in a special Q&A session with Julia herself, whose work is part of the museum's permanent collection. Students submitted questions they had prepared in advance, and asked them during the presentation.

Thank you to Willow Ridge art teacher Meghan Feeney, the dedicated docents at the AKG for guiding our students, and to our teachers and volunteers who made this experience possible!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026!



VALEDICTORIAN

KENDALL GAUME



SALUTATORIAN

MATTHEW ARRASJID

Zamyah M Adams
Adefela Adepoju
Abiha Ahmed
Aldrit Ahmeti
Jamal A.J. Al Ali
Rasool L Al Ani
Abdalla Al Ganfud
Ali Al-Jarah
Jumana K Al-Salman
Nour A Alashkar Alhamawi
Carly A Alberalla
Julianna J Aldik
Xzavier Allen
Taymaa Y Almoalem
Angus L Andrews
Oliver M Anthon
Ryan J Arguedas
Matthew E Arrasjid
Samuel I Asquith
Akashdeep Banger
Makel Barnes
Jaxson P Bass
Ryan Bechtel
Emma Belegic
Matthew S Benjamin
Tyler J Bensman
Shiven Bhargava
Kaitlyn O Biddlecombe
Sydney A Blarr
Grace Bosch-Krug
Jana N Boulbol
Braeden P Bowman
Jacob A Brant
Morgan E Brennan
Mia Brito
Anthony Sebastian Brown
Braylen N Brown
Zakiya Brown
Stiles L Bruno
Keela A Bucklaew
Fatema K Bulbol
Alexander P Burmeier
Lily M Burmeier
Oliver Bush
Isabella Cacheiro
Lily C Cannizzaro
Jessica R Carrigan
Robert Castro
Brendan W Chan
Zuhayer U Chowdhury
Cristiana C Christian
Leo P Colby
Jaevon Coleman
Katrena D Conerly
Logan M Cook-McClain
Logan Ray Copenhaver
Anthony J Corigliano
Natalie G Coughlin
Jayden C Crouse
Finn L Crowther
Xander Damstetter
Shahd Samer Daqo
Shatha Samer Daqo
Prakriti Dhital
MarQes S Diallo
Mariah J Douglas
Jack T Duffy
Fafa Dziedzorm A Dzakuma
Seth A.L. Eckelberger
Harmony A Edwin
Masarra E Faek
Trinity K Fairclough
Muhammad A Farooqui
Savannah R Farr
Tanaeja A. Favors
Ian W Feldmann
Ahmad Saleh Fetry
Jadiel O Figueroa
Blake J Flament
Gavin R Flatau
Chase Fleming
Akih B Fountain Jr.
Jenna Freda
Emma Gabioud
Azariah L Gandy
Kendall B Gaume
Yoman Gautam
Rojha Gazmer
Riley M Gerspach
Mason Gibbons
Rylee Goodwin
Brinlee E Greco
Alexis L Gregory
Anastasia Grover
Sofia E Guadagna
Luke M Gustafson
Ajlan M Haidara
Ellana A Hall
Te'a J Hammer
Dylan R Hariaczyi

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026!

Amir I Harper
Dalaa A Hatem
Olla Hejazi
Serai Hendricks
Jonathan M Henel
Cole Herbert
Milan Hill
Sydney E Hill
Xavier J Hogue
Gianna A Holloway
E'maija E Holmes
Quinton D Hood Jr
Zakaria E Hossain
Tetiana Hud
Autumn T Hughes
Ayat M Ibrahim
Dylan P Irvine
Raheel A Jaber
Jashauna J Jackson
Dayshon A Jackson
Alexander X Jemison
Matthew D Joseph Jr
Jordyn I Joseph-Brumell
Colton J Kaiser
Lakshithan Kandeepan
Matthew Kang
Mohammad N Karzoun
Abdulhameed O Kassem
Tessa E Kielbasa
Krista L Kincade
Luke Kirchman
Alexander Klein
Cho Ko
Akalya Kokularasa
Noah J Kropczynski
Jackson D LaRusso
Kit Lebediker
Savannah C Leidolph
Makena R Leshinskie
Ava S Lockridge
Dylan Lomas
Olivia Loster
Ayden Luciano
Joseph G Luh
Jocelyn J Maciejewski
Marquise J Mack
Summer R Mack
Ryan Magyar
Mahir A Mahi
Cayla J Mallory
Gabriella M Mancino
Trinity C Mann
Ari Martin
Miguel Maxwell
Skylar M Mazur
Ana'ni D McCutcheon
Shaun S McGrath
Alyssa Meyer
Genevieve K Miceli
Rasoul A Mrabieh
Abduali A Mukumov
Naushaba R Mullick
Ali A Muneam
Dahlia Myo
Caesar E Nance
Nevaeh A Nappo
Charlize C Nave
Zachary Nieman
Alliance Nyabitanga Muzuri
Delaney G O'Brocta
Angelina R O'Dierno
Brian P Oddy
Maame Akua Asakoma Odiko
Uvani C Pabon
Yug D Patel
Landon M Patterson
Mekaih A Patterson
Landon A Paul
Ryder B Paul
Jordan C Payne
Gianna R Phillips
Sunisa P Phimpakanekeo
David A Pineda
Addison P Powell
Jenish Pradhan
Avery L Priamo
Carleigh M Pulver
Cynthia R Quach
Shadir Rainey
Nyelah Ramadan
Sana Ramin
Benso Rattanavong Jr
Aiden Reinard
Abrianna L Renshaw
Emiah S Robbins
Cami L Runfola
Aaron J Russell
Savannah Rutland
Muhammad Sadiq
Zarif Salam
Matthew R Samulski
Ornkanya Samutsai
Neval D Sanders
Sidney E Sanford IV
Jeramiah R Santiago
Kaitlyn D Scholz
Jamarie Scott
Maxwell X Seitz
James M Serrano
Dylan M Sgroi
Sterling M Shadle Jr
Subhan Shams
Nazar Shaniuk
Mitchell Shiel
Avionna M Shimmel
Brady S Shocknesse
Naomi M Silva
Lauren Silverberg
Shawnette M Simmons
Gurkaranpreet Singh
Prateek Singh
James A Smith
Anna Smolinski
Cristian X Sosa
Mark A Spence
Anya G Sprague
Lorilei L Steinitz
Zaria A Stephens
Lana C Stinson
Cody D Strauss
Suraj Tamang
Kaitlyn E Taylor
Aaron Thomas
Jai'Marey Tillman
Katelyn A Tinney
Khang N Tran
Eugene Traore
Jalen D Tubbins
Maliyah G Tubbins
Jaden J Vanoy
Carden Vega
Vivian C Veneziano
Amelia R Voigt
Hannah E. Voigt
Blake S. Wagner
Reaan Wali
Giovanni B Walker
Samya M Walker
Adam M Walp
Anthony J Ward
Marshawn L Washington
Koriahna E Weber
Cayden E West
Madyson L Wheeler
Julius Whitcomb
Elijah J White
Zayvia A Whitfield
Quinten W Wilhelm
JaJuan M Williams
Jordan A Williams
Chiara N Wilson
Aaliyah Wolf
Jordan M Worley
Madison Worthy
Mursal Woryakhail
Brent E Yaw
Haylie Yourston
Kyel S Zaw
Boris Zenin
Iurii Zenin
Vincent Zhu
Connor Zink
Georgia C Zorich

2026







SPRING SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

CONGRATS TO ALL OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES AND COACHES FOR THEIR HARD WORK THIS SPRING SEASON

Girls Lacrosse:
- Finished the season 8-8
- Gianna Papero was named 1st Team All-Conference. She was named a Buffalo Bandits underclassmen All-Star. She had 58 points on the season and 59 draw controls.
- Sofia Guadagna & Lily Nichter were named 2nd Team All-Conference.
- Guadagna led the team with 59 draw controls, 31 ground balls and 17 caused turnovers.
- Kaitlyn Scholz, Natalie Coughlin and Allie Reed were named 3rd Team All-Conference.

Boys Lacrosse:
- Defeated BPS, St. Mary's, Bloomfield and Medina.
- Team led by Joey Surdi, 17 goals, 10 assists
- Landon Paul had 18 goals, 6 assists

Boys Tennis:
- Team was led by nine seniors.
- Eli Fuqua, Dylan Irvine, Jonathan Henel & Logan Copenhaver all qualified for the postseason ECIC tournament.
- Seniors Matt Arrasjid & Saleh Fetry received ECIC Sportsmanship awards.
- Jonathan Henel was selected as an ALL-WNY Scholar Athlete Winner

Baseball:
- Joe VanDusen was named 1st Team All League
- AJ Silvestri batted .345 and was named 2nd Team All League.
- The team started with four 8th graders in their lineup. Two 8th grade pitchers Thomas Hall and Travis Moslow both received Honorable Mention honors.

Softball:
- 2026 Division Champions
- 3rd Place in AA Class Playoff Bracket
- Won Quarter Final Game vs Niagara Wheatfield (Semi-Finalists)
- Elise McDuffie- Named All-Bee Tournament Team
- Morgan Brand- Division A1 Pitcher of the Year

Unified Basketball:
- Team was led by 13 athletes.
- Competed against Depew in the Unified Basketball Culminating Event in West Seneca.
- Athletes competed in eight total contests.

Flag Football:
- 8-6 record
- Won a playoff game to keep our streak alive of at least one playoff win every year of our program's 5 years.
- Kaila Frazier (11th grade/defensive end/running back) made 1st team All-Division, 1st team All-Bee and honorable mention All-WNY as defensive end. She became the program's all time leader in rushing yards, flag pulls, pulls for loss and sacks.
- Amelia Thompson (7th grade/quarterback), Rafaela Ventura (8th grade/cornerback/wide receiver), Annabelle Bystrzak (7th grade/ cornerback/wide receiver), Khloe Michalski (8th grade/safety/wide receiver) and Aeriyanna Ramos (11th grade/defensive end/running back) were All-Division honorable mentions.
- Amelia Thompson (7th grade/quarterback) ranked 14th in total yards, 11th in passing yards and 12th in passing TDs in Section 6 which includes 36 teams and over 750 players.
- Defeated Amherst in the annual Big Cat game to keep the Big Cat Belt at Sweet Home for another year.

Boys' Outdoor Track & Field:
- 4x400 took first place in Sectional Championships. Team included Moe Karzoun, Carden Vega, Rasool Al Ani and Alex Jemison.
- Alex Jemison took 5th place overall at State Championships in the open 400 meter.
- Moe Karzoun wins MVP of the year.

Girls Outdoor Track & Field:
- Paisley Holloway finished 2nd in the 100m hurdles with a time of 16.0
- Keiara Wells finished 4th in the 100m hurdles with a time of 16.71
- Gabrielle Thompson finished 2nd in the long jump with a distance of 17-6.25
- Ellana Hall finished 2nd in the pole vault with a height of 9-9
- The girls 4x100, made up by Paisley Holloway, Ivory Towns, Gabrielle Thompson and Keiara Wells, finished 4th in the 4x100m relay with a season best time of 50.07

Athletic Commits:
- Kendall Gaume (University of Massachusetts) - Rowing
- JaJuan Williams (Thiel College) - Football
- Elijah White (Hudson Valley Community) - Football
- Cristiana Christian (Villa Maria College) - Flag Football
- Brinlee Greco (Monroe Community) - Volleyball
- Quinten Wilhelm (Alfred State) - Football

Athletic photos by student Lovell Sauter of @sauterstudio

SWEET HOME CELEBRATES 2026 RETIREES AND TENURE RECIPIENTS

THIS YEAR WE SAY A FOND FAREWELL TO 31 TEACHERS AND STAFF MEMBERS AND CELEBRATE 20 TENURE RECIPIENTS

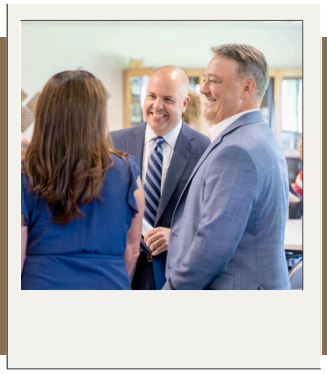


Kirsten Baetzhold
Marc Freda
David Graham
Michelle Iwankow
Dawn Kauderer
Frank LiCausi

James Marone
Collin Reid
Kevin Schleicher
Andrea Siwiec
Jeffrey Thomas
Michael Tojek
Katherine VanVolkenburg
Karen Young
Stephen Rozler
Toyia Wilson
Michael Ball
Sheryl Burke
Diane Cielinski

Gary Cox
Margaret Desiderio
Samuel Gonzalez
Kathie Jarvis
Angela Martinelli
Kathryn Martinez
Patricia Merrifield
Francis Michaels
Carol Montanari
Debbie Opala
Robert Peters
William Roberts









2026 TENURE RECIPIENTS

Alyssa Braun
Karen DeLaPlante
Lauren Kilian
Brittany Weber
Lindsay Kennedy
Brigid Kennedy
Allison Radecke
Lauren Wills
Brooke Bainbridge
Mariya Barnum

Clare Jaskolka
Emma Ruggiero
Evelyn Stewart
Elaina Blenk
John Pilato
Finune Shaibi
Marissa Dauria
Sarah Kosloski-Reed
Gina Nuchereno
Natasa Popovic



SEAL OF CIVIC READINESS

STUDENTS EARN RECOGNITION OF CIVIC EDUCATION

The Seal of Civic Readiness is a formal recognition that a student has attained a high level of proficiency in terms of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic mindset, and civic experiences.

In order to obtain the Seal of Civic Readiness, a student must complete all requirements for a New York State local or Regents diploma and earn a total of six points with at least two points in Civic Knowledge and at least two points in Civic Participation. Students may also earn points by completing a middle school Capstone project or a high school Capstone project.

Congratulations to the following Seniors for achieving this distinction upon graduation!

Zamyah Adams
Angus Andrews
Matthew Arrasjid
Samuel Asquith
Emma Belegic
Sydney Blarr
Grace Bosch-Krug
Morgan Brennan
Braylen Brown
Zakiya Brown
Jaevon Coleman
Logan Cook-McClain
Natalie Coughlin
Finn Crowther
Prakriti Dhital
MarQes Diallo
Jack Duffy
Masarra Faek
Trinity Fairclough
Savannah Farr
Ian Feldmann
Jenna Freda
Yoman Gautam
Anastasia Grover
Sofia Guadagna
Luke Gustafson
Ellana Hall
Dylan Hariaczyi
Cole Herbert
Sydney Hill
Xavier Hogue
Tetiana Hud
Raheel Jaber
Tessa Kielbasa
Akalya Kokularasa
Noah Kropczynski
Jackson LaRusso
Ava Lockridge
Joseph Luh
Summer Mack
Bobby Maxwell
Miguel Maxwell
Shaun McGrath
Genevieve Miceli
Delaney O'Brocta
Carson Pappagallo
Ryder Paul
Sunisa Phimpakanekeo
Addison Powell
Avery Priamo
Carleigh Pulver
Cynthia Quach
Jan Reyes Castillo
Emiah Robbins
Aaron Russell
Kaitlyn Scholz
Jamarie Scott
James Smith
Anna Smolinski
Cristian Sosa
Lana Stinson
Vivian Veneziano
Amelia Voigt
Kyel Zaw
Boris Zenin
Georgia Zorich

ALUMNI WALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS CHOSEN



This May, Sweet Home inducted three deserving alumni to the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame. The ceremony was a wonderful celebration of Panther pride. The event was emceed by Melissa Holmes (SH Class of 2000).

Honorees included Dr. Paul Bookbinder, nominated by his brother Mark Bookbinder; Nicholas Del Nuovo, nominated by Lisa LaBrake from the HS ELA Department; and Michael Read, nominated by Kristen Piurek, Kate Van Volkenburg, and Dominique Mediak Pirigyi from the HS Art Department. Congratulations to our inductees!

NOMINATE AN ALUMNUS

If you are interested in nominating someone for the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame, please visit our website, sweethomeschools.org, for more information, or contact Nicole Kuss at nkuss@sweethomeschools.org.

FIND US ONLINE

Information about the Alumni Association, including our Alumni Wall of Honor nomination form, can be found on our district website sweethomeschools.org.

Official Sweet Home Alumni Association

@OSHAA8617

officialshhsalumni

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Amherst, NY 14228

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Athletic Director	(716) 250-1207
High School	(716) 250-1203
Middle School	(716) 250-1452
Glendale Elementary	(716) 250-1500
Heritage Heights Elementary	(716) 250-1525
Maplemere Elementary	(716) 250-1550
Willow Ridge Elementary	(716) 250-1575



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Track your student's bus schedule and receive updates via the Stopfinder app. Contact our Transportation Department at businfo@sweethomeschools.org to activate a Stopfinder account for your family.