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MIDLAKES JOURNAL

PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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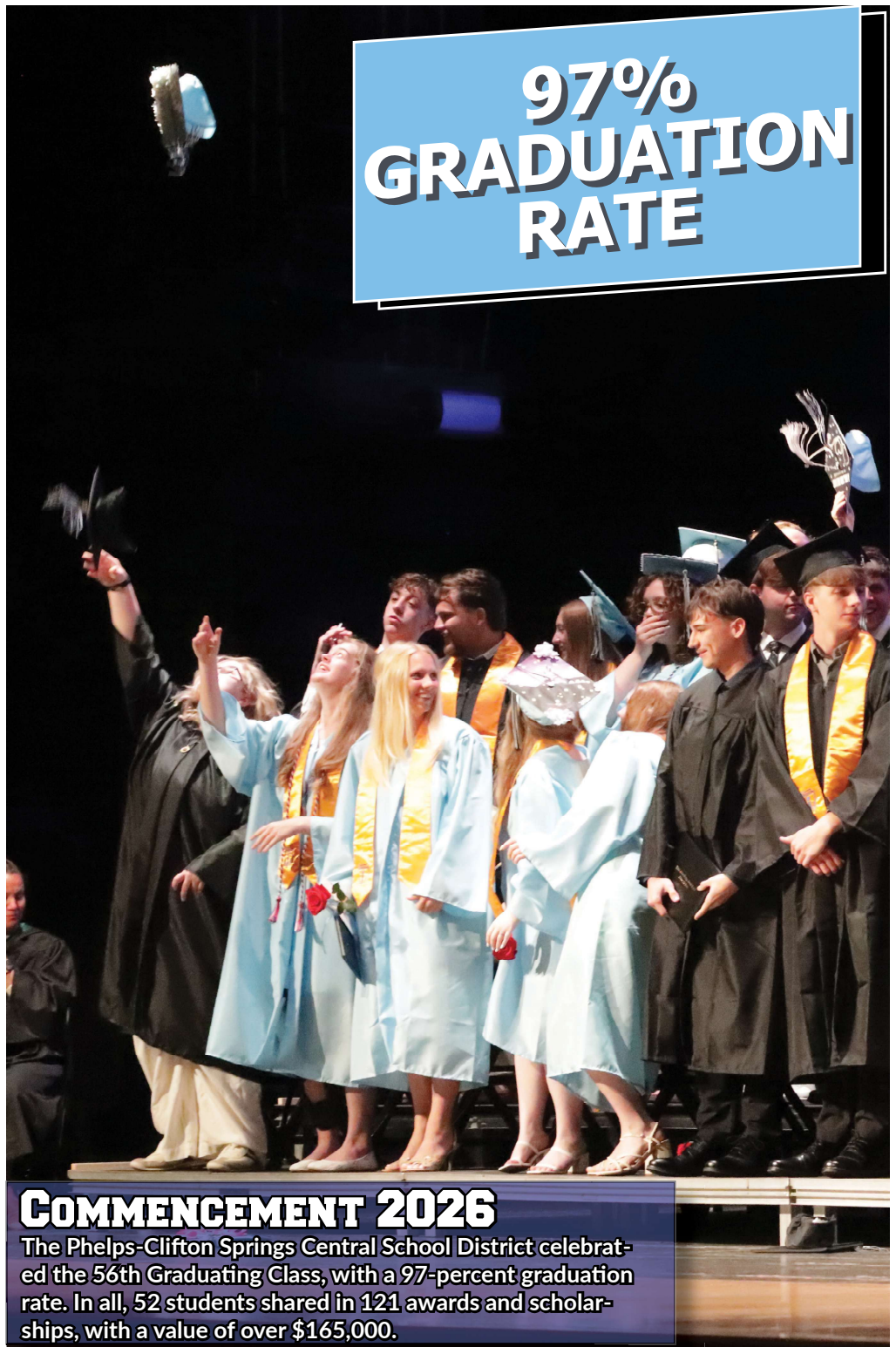


Taryn Windheim (with senior Grayson Roeland) earned the elite honor of being recognized with the Jefferson Fellowship Award. Read more on page 5.



Check out all the back-to-school events and fall activities on the "Upcoming Events" calendar on page 7.

97%
GRADUATION
RATE



COMMENCEMENT 2026

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District celebrated the 56th Graduating Class, with a 97-percent graduation rate. In all, 52 students shared in 121 awards and scholarships, with a value of over \$165,000.

CAPOZZI SHARES FINAL THOUGHTS

At our first board training, we did a maze activity. The lesson was to keep the end in mind instead of getting lost in every turn along the way. At the time, it felt like just another activity, but I've thought about it more than I expected.

Later that day, Mr. Ganster asked me, "At the end of the year, how will you know you were successful?"

Without thinking too much, I answered, "I'll feel it."

For a while, I thought that answer wasn't enough. It sounded too simple. I thought leadership was supposed to be measured by big accomplishments, bold ideas, or something you could easily point to.

But after this year, I think the simplest answer was the right one.

I've learned that leadership isn't always about making the biggest change in the room. Sometimes it's asking a question that hadn't been asked, listening to someone who needed to be heard, or leaving a place just a little better than you found it.

As I prepare to leave for college, I realize that's a lesson I'll carry with me. I won't always know if I'm choosing the perfect major, making the perfect decision, or taking the perfect path. There won't always be a scoreboard or a list of accomplishments telling me I'm headed in the right direction.

Sometimes, I'll just have to trust that I'll feel it.

So thank you for giving me a seat at this table, for trusting a student voice, and for showing me that meaningful leadership doesn't have to be complicated. It begins with listening, grows through curiosity, and leaves an impact that can't always be measured.

As I walk into the next chapter, I may not know exactly where every turn will lead, but thanks to this experience, I know what I'm looking for.

And I have a feeling I'll know when I find it.

Zoey Overslaugh, Class of 2028, will serve as the Ex Officio for 2026-27. ■

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

MAKING EVERY

As we begin a new school year in the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District, I find myself reflecting on the tremendous work accomplished by our students, staff, families, and community over the past year.

Last year, we embraced the theme "Time Well Spent." It served as a reminder that our most valuable resource is time and challenged us to think carefully about how we invest it on behalf of our students. More importantly, it inspired meaningful action across our district. Time Well Spent was never intended to be a slogan; it was intended to change how we think about and use time.

Together, we developed a new Strategic Plan that will help guide our work and decision-making for years to come. Through that process, we engaged staff, students, families, and community members in meaningful conversations about our future and the priorities that will shape our district moving forward. We also convened a dedicated calendar committee that thoughtfully examined how we use time throughout the school year and identified opportunities to better support teaching and learning.

As a result of that work, this year's calendar includes six half-days specifically dedicated to pro-



fessional collaboration, student data analysis, and instructional planning. These opportunities recognize an important truth: when educators are provided with intentional time to learn, collaborate, analyze student needs, and refine their instructional practices, our students grow.

The work of the past year was rooted in a simple belief that how we spend our time matters. This year, we build upon that foundation with a new theme: "Making Every Moment Matter."

While Time Well Spent focused on the investments we make, Making Every Moment Matter focuses on the impact of those investments. Student success is not built through a handful of major milestones. It is shaped through thousands of meaningful moments every day. A teacher helping a struggling learner gain confidence. A bus driver greeting a student by name. A coach teaching perseverance. A staff member offering encouragement. A parent asking about a school day around the dinner table. Individually, these moments may seem small, but together they shape who our students become.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the parents and guardians of our community. Your partnership,

DID YOU KNOW...

Our school buses travel approximately 2,000 miles each day, totaling nearly 360,000 miles annually as they safely transport students to and from school.

Our technology department supports approximately 4,400 internet-connected devices, including computers, phones, and safety systems that keep students safe, connected, and engaged.

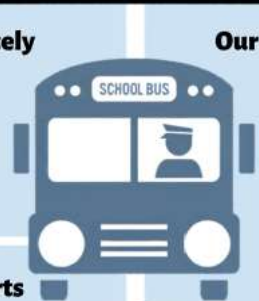
Each student will spend about 1,170 hours in our classrooms this school year.

Our food service team planned, prepared, and served more than 300,000 nutritious meals during the 2025-2026 school year.

Our teachers, instructional support staff, pupil personnel professionals, and administrators work directly with nearly 1,500 students and their families to maximize learning, growth, and social-emotional well-being.

Their collective efforts contributed to academic performance that exceeded state averages in English Language Arts and Mathematics, along with a graduation rate of approximately 95 percent.

Our facilities staff maintains 125 acres of grounds, athletic fields, and parking areas, along with more than 546,000 square feet of learning and community space.



MOMENT MATTER

encouragement, and daily efforts are essential to the success of our students and the strength of our schools. Whether you are helping your child get to the bus on time, assisting with homework, attending school events, or simply asking about their day, you are creating moments that matter. Those conversations, routines, and expressions of support leave a lasting impact on children and reinforce the importance of education.

We see you, we appreciate you, and we thank you. And, we're in this together.

As a district, we remain committed to building on our successes by empowering teacher leadership, strengthening curriculum and assessment practices, making data-informed decisions, and continuing to foster distraction-free learning environments where teaching and learning remain the focus. The structures we have created through our Strategic Plan, collaborative calendar design, and dedicated professional learning opportunities are intended to ensure that the time we invest as educators translates into meaningful experiences and improved outcomes for students.

Stay connected with your child's teachers and school staff. Our educators and administrators communicate through a variety of channels, and we encourage you to take advantage of opportunities such as open houses, conferences, school events, and informal conversations throughout the year. When schools and families work together, students benefit.

Together, we can ensure that every child in our district has the support they need to thrive at school, at home, and in life.

Thank you for your partnership, your trust, and your belief in what we can accomplish together. Last year, we focused on ensuring our time was well spent. This year, we challenge ourselves to build on that foundation by making every moment

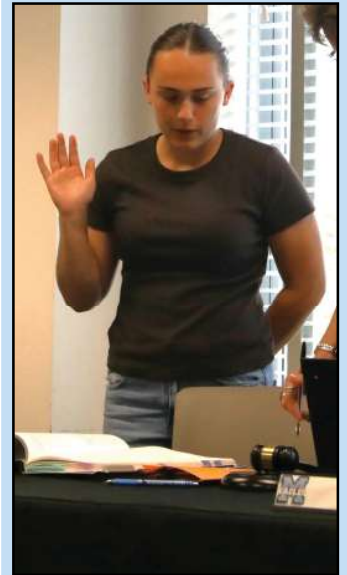
PLEASE CONTINUE TO:

- Ask your child open-ended questions about school, such as, "What was something interesting you learned today?" to spark conversation and demonstrate interest.
- Help your child manage emotions, develop healthy friendships, and practice positive self-care habits.
- Maintain a dedicated space and routine for reading and homework.
- Encourage healthy sleep habits, nutritious meals, and opportunities for children to simply be children.
- Let your child see you reading, learning something new, or solving problems. These examples reinforce the value of lifelong learning.
- Praise effort, perseverance, and growth rather than focusing solely on outcomes. Help your child understand that mistakes are often the first step toward learning.

matter for our students, our schools, and our community.

With hope and optimism,

Nick Ganster
Superintendent of Schools
Phelps-Clifton Springs CSD



OVERSLAUGH JOINS BOE AS STUDENT REP

Zoey Overslaugh (Class of 2028) will serve as the 2026-27 Student Ex Officio member on the Phelps-Clifton Springs Board of Education.

"I am so excited to have the opportunity to participate on the Board this year as the student representative. I look forward to representing Midlakes' Student Body to the best of my ability throughout my time on the Board," she said.

While she has two years left at Midlakes, the position is a one-year term. She may be renominated in the Spring of 2027.

The Ex Officio is a non-voting member of the Board of Education. Jonathan Capozzi, the Valedictorian of the Class of 2026, served as the first Ex Officio representative.

Overslaugh is the Junior Class President, and is active in Student Council, the Announcements Committee and Midlakes Athletic Leadership Organization (MALO). She is also a student member of the Graduates of Distinction Committee. She is a three-sport (cross country, basketball, lacrosse) varsity athlete and is active in the high school band.

"I truly enjoy being able to represent Midlakes" said Overslaugh. "I can't wait to help my school and community!" ■

FRIDAY APPOINTED BUSINESS MANAGER

Dan Friday has been appointed to the position of Business Manager of the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District.

Friday is currently the Director of Facilities in the East Rochester Union Free School District where he oversees Facilities, Food Service and Transportation.

Friday holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management. In addition, he is currently attending SUNY Brockport to earn his Certificate of

Advanced Study in School District Business Leadership.

Friday served in a similar role previously at the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District. Friday begins in his new role September 28.

He takes over from Karl Dubash, who held the role since November 2021.

Dubash resigned at the end of the 2025-26 school year, moving to an assistant superintendent role with Pittsford Schools. Richard Walker has been serving in an interim role since the spring.



MCAFEE PRESENTS AT ISME 2026 IN MONTREAL

Chris McAfee, the Midlakes Middle School band director, visited the annual International Society for Music Education seminars in Montreal in July.

He presented on his paper, *An Analysis of Creative Activities in Instrumental Music Ensembles: Educator Perspectives, Practices, and Barriers* and presented on his published work, *Quantum Learning: Degrees of Formality in Music Learning Facilitation*.

"It has been a very fun summer full of bringing these pieces that have been in the works for the past few years to the world, but it has also been a summer full of generation and making new connections so stay tuned for even more exciting projects coming soon," McAfee said.

He has also had two more studies published: "An Analysis of Creative Activities in Instrumental Music Ensembles: Educator Perspectives, Practices, and Barriers" (*International Journal of Music Education*, July 12) and *Quantum Degrees of Formalities in Popular Music Education* (*Journal of Popular Music Education*, Aug. 2). ■



MIDLAKES NAMED NAMM BEST MUSIC COMMUNITY

The NAMM Foundation has named Midlakes Schools and the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District one of the 'Best Communities for Music Education' after a rigorous process. It is the first time Midlakes has been recognized with the 'Best Communities' designation.

NAMM - the National Association of Music Merchants - gifted the Performing Arts Department commemorative banners that are currently on display.

"This is such an exciting time for music education at Midlakes," proclaimed Kathryn Kenyon, who chairs the music department at Midlakes Schools.

For 27 years, the Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) designation has been awarded to districts and individual schools that demonstrate outstanding access to music education for all students.

This year, more than 1,000 schools and districts were selected for this honor because they demonstrate outstanding achievement in their efforts to provide music access and education to all students. Midlakes offers a robust music program, presenting students with a variety of opportunities to receive quality classroom instruction and to perform with a range of ensembles. We have a number of community groups that



continue to support our educators and students alike.

Earning the honor is no small feat. High School Band

Director Will Hope explained the rigorous process to earn the nomination. Kenyon compared the process to grant writing. This is a recognition Midlakes has pursued before, but had not earned the designation.

"To qualify for the BCME designation, our district answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, and support for the music program and community

music-making programs. Responses were verified by school officials and tabulated by WolfBrown, an esteemed national independent research and evaluation firm specializing in education and the arts," explained Hope.

The 'Best Communities' designation recognizes the collaborative, from-the-ground-up efforts of teachers, administrators, and families who strive to keep comprehensive music education as a key part of the curriculum. Recognized districts also lead the way with opportunities as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which recommends music and the arts as important elements in a well-rounded education for all learners.

Special congratulations to our Music team: Kathryn Kenyon, Will Hope, Amy Connors, Chris McAfee, Bethany Cripps and Eileen Bohrer & Amy VanderWeide.

With Ms. Bohrer retiring, Hannah Godfrey will be joining the Elementary Music staff. ■



SUMMER OF WINDHEIM

After earning the coveted Madison Fellowship Award, Secondary Educator later presents in Philadelphia

Secondary Educator Taryn Windheim was recognized in the spring with the exclusive James Madison Fellowship.

The award is given to one educator per state, and this is the first time the award was presented to a New York Educator outside of the New York City/downstate region.

The James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation offers the \$24,000 James Madison QAA Fellowships to individuals desiring to become outstanding teachers of the American Constitution at the secondary school level.

Fellowship applicants compete only against other applicants from the states of their legal residence.

"Nothing will compare with the opportunity of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship. This Fellowship will support my continued learning of constitutional law, politics, and American government in service to the

students I teach each year. I am grateful for this award and proud to bring it to Midlakes," Windheim said.

On the heels of her incredible honor, Windheim was then part of the Founding Forward's "Celebrating America at 250" teacher seminars in Philadelphia. She will be using the fellowship to earn a Master's Degree in history at Gettysburg College. The Fellowship requires a month-long residency at Georgetown University next summer where all of the 50 fellows come together to learn



from top scholars.

Windheim begins her fourth year at Midlakes this fall, starting in September 2023. In addition to her classroom work, she is active with student council, homecoming and also works with Buoy, a registered two-year old Great Pyrenees therapy dog who visits campus regularly. ■

ROELAND TAKES ON PHILLY

Grayson Roeland (Class of 2027) was invited to participate in the Debate and Leadership Institute Leadership Conference in Philadelphia.

The event, hosted by the Institute and Founding Forward, in tandem with the Bill of Rights Institute.

Roeland was invited back with a full scholarship after visiting during a Midlakes field trip to the Spirit of America Program in Valley Forge, with Taryn Windheim and Angela Simmons.

This "was an opportunity to develop my skills in debate, public speaking, and leadership. It was designed to challenge us to communicate our ideas and understand different perspectives while working with other students," recalled Roeland.

Roeland participated in debate activities, discussions, and leadership exercises.

While developing structured arguments and presenting skills, the students also worked to learn how to listen to other views while



clearly explaining or defending a position. The final day included a trip to the Union League of Philadelphia, using their new tools in debates with peers.

"I really enjoyed the experience. It helped me become more comfortable speaking publicly and made me realize how important it is to be able to communicate an idea clearly, even when someone

disagrees with you," she said. "The biggest thing I took away was that good leadership isn't just about being the person who talks the most—it's also about listening, understanding other viewpoints, and bringing people together."

After Midlakes, Roeland hopes to further her education and to major in Political Science or Sports Management. ■

HEALTHY MEALS



OVER 300k MEALS SERVED AT MIDLAKES

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District Food Services Department prepared 302,881 meals between September 2026 and June 2026.

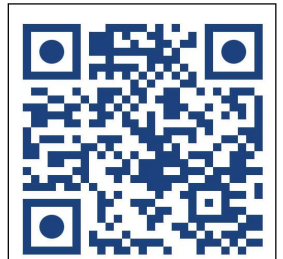
Midlakes prepared 118,797 breakfast meals across the two buildings, and another 184,084 lunches.

That equates to an average of 553 breakfast meals and 856 lunches each day.

Meals are provided for free at Midlakes under a Federal program. Federal CEP provisions aside, New York State offered additional funding to ensure meals were free in all New York schools. Students are allowed one free meal at breakfast and lunch and are charged for a la carte items and additional full meals.

Midlakes Schools will again be involved in the Farm to School program, and will feature local produce in the 'Harvest of the Month' program. The Food and Nutrition Department has also purchased a tomato growing stand for school use with the Farm to School Grant.

To learn more visit [Midlakes.org/FoodService](https://midlakes.org/FoodService) or scan the code below. ■



HIGHLIGHTS



PHOTO RELEASE, PRIVACY INFO.

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District celebrates the learning and accomplishments of students in materials that may include, but are not limited to, honors/awards, non-graded work, photographs, videos, and voice recordings.

This information may be released to local media, published in District publications, posted at school or public functions, or printed in a school yearbook. If published, a student's name or likeness may appear with the intent to highlight/praise student learning and accomplishments.

Also, the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows schools to release certain pieces of "directory information" unless parents choose to exercise their right of refusal.

Per FERPA, the District must publish an annual notice informing parents and students of their right to refuse the release of such information. A full explanation can be found in BoardDocs, under the Board of Education tab at Midlakes.org.

No action is required if your family agrees to allow the District to publish and/or display information for non-commercial purposes. Those not granting permission should clearly include their child's first and last name, grade level, and email cmarquart@midlakes.org, or write their school or child's teacher(s). ■

CLASS OF '26

Frank Isai Acevedo Martinez
Elias Arenas
Samir Timurovich Askarov
Brenden V. Baldwin
Kyle Bell
Haven Rayne Benz
Clara Madison Bond
Griffin Killian Bowers
Cemal Bozada
Ana Melissa Bravo-Rojas
Reegan McKenna
Broomfield-Sommers
Aiden Scott Bryant
Yareli Cruz-Castro
Janelis A. Burgos DeJesus
Josiam Miguel Burgos DeJesus
Kasandra R. Burns
Jonathan S. Capozzi
Emileigh M. Cardin
Ciera Lynn Carnright
Connor Patrick Carter
Gino Frank Anthony Catalano
Julie Chen
Logan Churchill
Maddison H. Clark
Marley Ellen Conrad
Dakara Alison Davis
Makenzie Raine Davis
Jake S. Deckert
Lilliana A. Dominguez
Zachary I. Donk
Ashlyn E. Downey
Cohen J. Egburton
Elizabeth Elling
Aiden S. Fegley
Orion Fesler
Owen Fitzsimmons
Katelynn N. Fredericks
Matie Broday Frisbee
Aiden C. Gerlock
Anthony D. Gleason
Lauren Godkin
Aaron James Gonzalez
Ian J. Gonzalez
Isaac Gregory
Nicholas S. Hargarther Jr.
Mason Hargrove
Nathaniel J. Herendeen
Justin R. Herman Jr.
Kaiden J. Hilberer
Mason Michael Lee Holley
Katie Roselee Holtz
Corinne E. Hughes
Margaret Ann Hultzapple
Stella Joy Hutson
Dominick Francis Jensen
Naelyn Rose Johnson



GRADUATES AWARDED \$165K

Graduating seniors at Midlakes High School received approximately \$165,000 in financial support, certificates and other awards for outstanding academic achievements, citizenship, and individual merit during the school's 56th Commencement on Saturday, June 27 in the Midlakes High School Auditorium. Overall, 52 students were honored with 121 awards totaling \$165,602. Midlakes among the top 25% of schools in New York State ■

GRADUATES



Gavin Kesel
 Peter Kettelkamp
 Liam Killian
 Paige Killian
 Ayden J. Klapp
 Samuel A. Kuhn
 Robert Lally
 Torrin J. Lane
 Jasmine Mercedes Lanza
 Nathan D. Lathrop
 Jamie Cora Lawson
 Anna G. Lightfoote
 Aiden Allen George Loomis
 Conner Lee Lundberg
 Aeryn Anita-Rose Maher
 Landen M. Manley
 Trey Steven Martin
 Brooklyn M. May
 Mackenzie McNicholas
 Hayden F. Minns
 Mallorie E. Rogers
 Emma Elizabeth Monagle
 Janmichael Monge Estrella
 Douglas Christopher Robert
 Murray-Purdy
 Krista Nealey
 Daniel J. Nevil
 Ashley Orozco-Aguilar
 Nicholas M. Owen
 Marliegh Prattico
 Stuart Isaac Quku
 Gianna Isabella Rago
 Declan James Reed
 Fernando Resendiz
 Eleany Resendiz
 Yandell J. Rivera
 Erika Isamar Rodriguez-Rivera
 Lily A. Roth
 Gavin Ross Ruggles
 Amelia June Santz
 Isabella Louise Schutt
 Brody Smith
 Emily Karen Smith
 Paul Anthony Spruill
 Blake E. Starkweather
 Maya R. Stevenson
 Kiera S. Stickles
 Mackenzie Rayne Suhr
 Jake Thomas Sussman
 Charles Jan Syck
 Eden Summer Trzeciak
 Connor W.D. Walsh
 Elizabeth Marie Waters
 Braxton P. Wilkes
 Cayden R. Young
 Mekhi Richard Scott Kemp

HIGHLIGHTS

USE OF AI AT MIDLAKES SCHOOLS

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District supports learning to prepare every student to be successful with the skills necessary to compete and thrive in a 21st-century environment, which includes embracing new technology and trends.

Some examples include providing tablets to all students, classroom computers with specialized software for staff and student use, and using equipment and systems to enhance student learning, protect infrastructure, and more.

The growing use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) has created new opportunities and challenges for all schools.

Generative AI is a technology that creates new content mimicking a human response. It can help create and edit texts, images, songs and videos, and can be taught complex tasks to help solve problems.

As part of an annual review of the Code of Conduct, the Board of Education approved a recommendation to add the use of AI in any manner not explicitly authorized by a classroom teacher as a form of academic misconduct.

Examples of prohibited behaviors can be found under section 5300.30 Prohibited Student Conduct, along with the entire Code of Conduct, on the District's website under the "Student Life" tab and by visiting [Midlakes.org/CodeofConduct](https://midlakes.org/CodeofConduct). ■

UPGRADES

ELEMENTARY
ROOF REPAIRS
ON SCHEDULE

The Elementary Roof Repair Project, addressing the failing and deteriorating conditions of the Midlakes Elementary roof, are on schedule to be completed this month. The roof repairs are being finished under a Board of Education local emergency declaration.

The Elementary roof was included in the initial CIP24 plans. The emergency declaration authorizes the District to spend up to \$4M in current fund balance to pay for a new roof. The approved bid was \$1.9M.

As a result of the local emergency declaration, the state will reimburse the district at a rate of 87.6% over 15 years.

That will amount to an estimated reimbursement of \$1.65M during that time period. The district will pay roughly \$231,000.

When complete, the repairs will include installing a new layer of insulation, a new substructure and laminate, then a new outer layer. New drainage and ventilation hardware will also be installed.

Additionally, the north entrance off State Route 488 between the the Soccer Fields and up to the Elementary Bus Loop has also been resealed and the bus loop repainted. ■

PANTRY TO HELP STUDENTS, FAMILIES

The Midlakes School District, in partnership with Foodlink, the Mary Hicks Preston Foundation, Midlakes INTERACT and the Clifton Springs Rotary Club, is proud to announce the opening of a new school-based food pantry housed inside the Midlakes Secondary building.

Designed to support students and their families throughout the district, the pantry provides direct access to fresh, nutritious food and essential supplies at zero cost.

The initiative addresses food insecurity directly where families already gather, eliminating transportation barriers and offering a convenient, familiar location for support.

The pantry was made possible through a collaborative community effort:

- **Foodlink:** Serves as the primary food supply and logistics partner, supplying fresh food, dry goods, and ongoing operational support through its regional food

SCHOOL BASED FOOD PANTRY

LOCATION: Midlakes Secondary School (Clifton Springs, NY)

TARGET AUDIENCE: All enrolled students and their families within the Midlakes School District.

ITEMS PROVIDED: Fresh produce, shelf-stable groceries, and personal care items.

bank network.

- **Mary Hicks Preston Foundation:** Provided vital grant funding to help cover initial setup costs, infrastructure, and equipment.

- **Clifton Springs Rotary Club:** Provided volunteer assistance to help establish and maintain operations.

- **Midlakes School District:** Donated the physical space, facility resources, and staff coordination inside the Midlakes

Secondary building.

- **Midlakes INTERACT Club:** Food drives last year were instrumental in building an inventory and increasing awareness. INTERACT Students were key in filling and stocking shelves.

"Ensuring our students have reliable access to nutritious food is fundamental to their health, well-being, and ability to learn," said Food Pantry coordinator and District MTSS Coordinator, Margo Lacure.

"Thanks to the generous support of Foodlink, the Mary Hicks Preston Foundation, and the Clifton Springs Rotary, we are creating a stigma-free, accessible resource right here on our campus to support our entire community."

Families interested in accessing the pantry or learning more about distribution hours, volunteer opportunities, and donation guidelines can contact School Social Workers, Kristin Wrobbel and Katie Peck at 315-548-6310 or Margo Lacure at 315-548-6900 ext 7224. ■

MIDLAKES STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ONTARIO CO. JR. DEPUTY CAMP AT FLCC

Several Midlakes students took part in a Junior Sheriff's Academy, hosted in conjunction with the Ontario County Sheriff's Department.

Midlakes students included Jorge Garcia, David DelCastillo, Rylan Potter, Brayden Trickey and Xavier Smith.

Potter received the Esprit De Corps Award in recognition of exceptional teamwork, loyalty and unwavering commitment to fellow cadets. Garcia received the Sheriff's Excellence Award.

The week-long academy at Finger Lakes Community College featured lessons and collaboration opportunities. ■



FREE BOOKS FOR BABIES



Budding
Readers

A love of reading - from the start!

Is your baby **36 months of age or younger**? Do you know a baby of this age in our school district? Budding Readers has free "bundles of books" with tips for parents about reading to babies and toddlers ready to deliver. **To request a free "bundle of books"**, you can call, email, place a request on our website, or scan the QR code. One of our volunteers will contact the parent to arrange a mutually convenient time to deliver the bundle of books.

Email: books@buddingreaders.org
Website: www.books@buddingreaders.org
Phone: (585) 900-1725

Thank you for helping us provide books for babies.

NEW PROCESS WHEN VISITING CAMPUS

Parents and guardians should expect a new process when visiting campus.

Midlakes Schools will be implementing the use of Visitor Aware, a screening software used to help with guest admittance to school buildings. The software will add an extra layer of security in limiting problematic or restricted visitors from gaining access to the campus buildings.

The system will screen visitors against national databases to identify and prevent unwanted visitors from entering the schools.

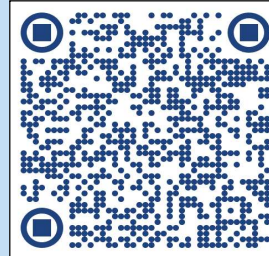
Visitors will have the ability to register their visit ahead of time online. The entry process will now use an iPad and their valid photo identification.

Here's a look at how the process will work:

- To enter a building, visitors will buzz the front desk. They will be asked to state their name and purpose before being allowed into the vestibule.



**SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRE-REGISTRATION**



**ELEMENTARY
PRE-REGISTRATION**

- Visitors will then use the iPad tablet provided to access the Visitor Aware kiosk system to get a badge before entering.

- The process will involve a brief series of steps which include selecting the destination (building) you are entering, taking a photo of yourself and your license with the iPad, and waiting for the ID tag to print.

- Once verified, the visitor may enter the school.

As a reminder for security purposes, no one should hold the door open for other visitors. Each person needs to be individually screened before entering the vestibule.

Once fully operational, links for parents and guardians to setup their accounts will be shared. An entry will need to be made for each student they have in the district.

While the individual setup can be done at the time of the school visit, using the links to register ahead of time will speed up your entry experience. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

"FELT FRIENDS" PROJECT EARNS NYSSBA HONOR

The collaborative program between Jocelyn McConnon's Middle School Family and Consumer Sciences class and Jennifer Baxter's Kindergarten earned the "Champions of Change" recognition, awarded by the New York State School Boards Association.

The creative program brought the two buildings on campus together. Baxter's students drew small monsters and created a backstory - names, likes, dislikes, and so on - for their critter. McConnon collected the drawings and her FACS students used felt and sewing skills to create small stuffies, bringing the ideas from paper to life.

"We would like to pay tribute to those who made it possible," said Barry Entwistle, the Chief Member Relations and Business Development Officer with NYSSBA. "We understand there are many incredibly meritorious programs and projects throughout the state, and NYSBBA is celebrating yours."

NYSSBA is dedicated to recognizing and promoting positive work taking place in schools across the state. A banner has been hung in the Board of Education Room, naming the collaboration as being awarded with the NYSSBA "Champions of Change" honors. ■

CLASS OF 1976 CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH SCHOOL TOUR



The Graduating Class of 1976 returned for a campus tour at the end of July as part of their 50th anniversary celebration. The group raved about the Music Suite and Aquatic Center. The tour also visited the gymnasium and auditorium. Class reunions looking to tour the campus should contact the High School at 315-548-6300 or the Communications Office at 315-548-6477. ■

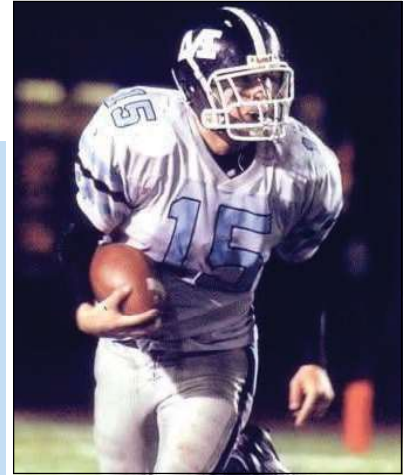
HALL INDUCTIONS SEPT. 25

CLAY HEMMINGER

Clay Hemminger excelled in football, and also played basketball and lacrosse. In 2007, he was awarded a Finger Lakes All-League First Team nomination as a linebacker, and the same year, earned Second Team honors as a running back. He was also a 2007 All-Greater Rochester Second Team honoree. In 2006, he was named as a Finger Lakes All-League Third Team nominee.

Hemminger earned the Athlete of the Year award in his time at Midlakes Schools. He earned the Steve Jones Award and the McCallister Award, and the 2007 Captain's Award. He was a two-time WACK 1420 AM Player of the Year, a Daily Messenger Defense Second Team nominee. Hemminger earned Scholar Athlete recognition in both 2006 and 2007. He was a team-leader in both rushing and tackles in 2007. He played four years of collegiate football.

HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2026

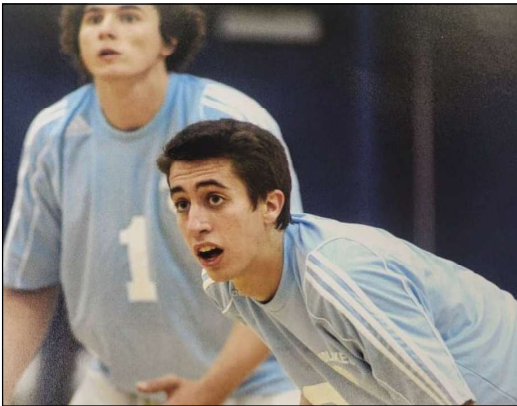


E.J. WELLS-SPICER

EJ Wells-Spicer, arguably the best volleyball player to come out of Midlakes' program was named Finger Lakes First Team All-League four times, and was twice recognized as an All-Greater Rochester First Team and twice honored as the AGR Player of the Year (2008, 2007).

He was named the Section V Class B Most Valuable Player twice (2007, 2006). He finished as the all-time leader in assists (2,164).

HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2025



DAN MOWERY

Dan Mowery was a five-season volleyball standout and was twice named to the Finger Lakes All-League First Team, and twice earned First-Team nominations to the All-Greater Rochester team. Mowery was a Section V Class B All-Tournament Team nominee in 2007.

HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2025



JOE PETZOLDT

Joe Petzoldt compiled a total of 702 kills, leading the team in the statistical category during each of his final three seasons. He was a First Team nominee to the Finger Lakes All-League lists three times. His sophomore and senior seasons, he was named to the Section V Class B All-Tournament teams.

HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2025



The four athletes will be inducted at dinner celebration on September 25 at 6 pm Warfield's in Clifton Springs. Tickets are \$55.

The deadline for reservations is September 15, 2026.

Use the QR code to nominate an athlete and to learn about eligibility. Or, visit Midlakes.org/hallof-fame. Nominations must be received before Nov. 1.



LOOKING AHEAD

POOL OFFICIALLY OPEN

The Midlakes Aquatic Center is open for swim lessons and free swim activities this fall. The pool is a gathering place for the community as a whole. It is a site for swim and lifeguarding lessons, local CPR and underwater training. It is used by the Phelps Community Center, Clifton YMCA and Ontario County Sheriff's Department. Morning, family, lap, and open swim as well as water aerobics are offered throughout the week. Classes fill quickly. The new blocks are installed, along with the new filtration system and dehumidifier. All pool resurfacing is complete.

Family/Open/Lap Swim: 6-8 p.m., Friday.

Morning Swim: 6-7:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Water Aerobics: 7:30-8:30 a.m., Mon., Wed., & Fri.

WINTER SWIM LESSONS (SESSION II)

• Email registration by December 12 to Jack Hauber at jhauber@midlakes.org.

• Include: Parent's name, child's name, parent's email, and phone number, along with lesson level and time (if Level 1).

• Level 1 lessons are 30 minutes long, from 9-9:30 a.m. and 9:30-10 a.m.

• Levels 2, 3, 4 and 5 have hour-long lessons, from 9-10 a.m.

• Lesson dates are Dec. 19; Jan. 2, 9, 16 and 30.

No lessons on January 23. All dates are subject to change.

For more information, call (315) 548-6451 or visit the District's website at Midlakes.org/AquaticCenter. ■

CAN'T MISS HAPPENINGS



SPIRIT WEEK

Show your Midlakes pride and support a positive school culture by encouraging your students to participate in Spirit Week, join school pep rallies, wear Midlakes gear, and come together with alumni who return for the annual Homecoming football game with food trucks and more. The homecoming parade returns on September 20 at 4 pm.

DATES: Sept. 20-26; Game at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26. ■

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Midlakes Elementary School plans to continue its tradition of students of honoring local servicemen and women with a parade at school. The secondary school will host a separate ceremony with students and veterans following the parade.

DATE: Tuesday, Nov. 10. ■



UPCOMING EVENTS

» SEPT.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

6:30 p.m., Sept. 14

HOMECOMING WEEK

Sept. 20-26

SECONDARY OPEN HOUSE

6 p.m., Sept. 17

» OCT.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

6:30 p.m., Oct. 5

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY

Oct. 9 (NO STUDENTS)

COLUMBUS DAY/INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

Oct. 12 (NO SCHOOL)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

6:30 p.m., Oct. 19

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Oct. 14-15

GRADES 7-12 SCHOOL PICTURE DAYS

Oct. 14-16

UPK-6 SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Oct. 21-22

» NOV.

SENIOR PHOTOS/BABY PICTURES DUE

Nov. 2

ROLLER SKATING PARTY

Nov. 16: UPK-2

Nov. 17: 3-4

Nov. 18: 5-6

NOMINATIONS DUE

Athletics Hall of Fame/
Graduates of Distinction, Nov. 1

VETERANS DAY

Nov. 11 (No School)

Events subject to change. Find school calendars, sports schedules and more under the "Community" tab at Midlakes.org.

CAREER CORNER

WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM



JOIN OUR TEAM!

The Phelps-Clifton Springs CSD is a positive and rewarding place to work. School employees enjoy many benefits, including competitive pay, paid holidays and training, sick and vacation time, flexible hours for some positions, health and retirement benefits, leadership and mentorship opportunities, support from a great team, and much more. For a list of openings on the District job board, visit www.midlakes.org/jobs or scan the QR Code below.

OPENINGS

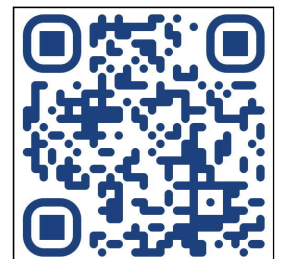
• **BUS DRIVERS** are needed for multiple openings. Competitive salary and paid training. There are driver, trainee and substitute driver positions available.

• **CUSTODIAN / CLEANER** position working campus wide. Variety of shifts available.

• **SPEECH PATHOLOGIST / THERAPIST** probationary listings, with multiple openings.

• **TEACHING ASSISTANT** probationary listings, with multiple openings.

• **SUBSTITUTES** Sub positions are open throughout the district. ■



MTE BRINGS 'SHINING LIVES' TO BLACKBOX THEATRE NOV. 5-8

Some stories entertain. Some stories change the way we see the world.

This fall, Midlakes Theatre Experience is honored to present 'These Shining Lives' by Melanie Marnich.

Based on the true story of the women who worked at the Radium Dial Company, 'These Shining Lives' celebrates the extraordinary courage of ordinary people.

When Catherine and her coworkers discover that the very job they believed promised them a brighter future has cost them their health, they refuse to let their voices be silenced. Their fight for justice becomes a testament to resilience, friendship, and the power of standing up for those who come after us.

Though their story is rooted in history, its message remains as relevant today-reminding us that every life has value, every voice deserves to be heard, and lasting change often begins with the courage to speak the truth.

The show will be directed by Marie Fischer (Class of 2015), with Mikayla Wilkes serving as Assistant Director.

Trevor Barcomb (Class of 2018) serves as Producer, while technical direction is led by Charlie King and Cris Brown (Class of 1994).



Lighting design is by Ross Gifford (Class of 1997), with costumes designed by Nancy Denisi (Class of 1975), Susie Bonawitz, and Jeremy Franson (Class of 2011)

This powerful and moving story comes alive on the Black Box stage November 5-7 at 7:30 pm with a 2pm matinee performance planned for November 8th.

The Midlakes Theatre Experience prides itself on fostering talent and producing quality performances for the community. Tickets will

be available at the Midlakes High School Main Office as well as other retail vendors that will be announced soon.

'ONCE UPON A MATTRESS' EARNS SEVERAL AWARDS

Midlakes Theatre Experience earned Achievement in Theatrical Storytelling, Achievement in Acting Ensemble, Achievement in Vocal Ensemble, Achievement in Dance Ensemble, Achievement in Production Crew, and Achievement in Production Design. The recognitions were shared during the Stars of Tomorrow Gala this past spring.

Ellie Dorr (Lady Larken), Brian Cannan (Prince Dauntless), Justin Herman (Sir Harry), Gavin Ruggles (Jester), Maeve Jankowski (Princess Winnifred), Liesl Dorr (Queen Aggravain) and Allison DeRuyter (Minstrel) were recognized for achievement in a leading role. Robert Lally (King Sextimus) and Hayden Lawson (Princess No. 12) received a "Tip of the Hat" recognition for their performances.

Justin Herman earned a top 10 finish in the Stars of Tomorrow NYC Bound competition, hosted by the Rochester Broadway Theatre League. With Herman, both Cannan and Dorr advanced into the top 40. ■



PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Send tips and suggestions to: Newsletter, 1490 State Route 488, Clifton Springs, NY 14432



PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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