Chester UFSD NEWSLETTER

October 2026

Home of the Hambletonians



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT
CATHERINE O'HARA

October brought exciting opportunities to learn, collaborate, and connect as we advanced District priorities through professional learning, regional partnerships, and engagement with our families and community.

Advancing our commitment to school safety, we hosted Comprehensive School Threat Assessment (CSTAG) training with OU BOCES and neighboring districts, strengthening our shared approach to prevention and intervention. In addition, we held a half-day professional development included further safety and security training, NYS Portrait of a Graduate competencies, and an outstanding ENL team session on multilingual learners' experiences.

Building on this spirit of collaboration, we engaged families through opportunities for input, learning, and connection. Our Parent Advisory Panel discussed NY Inspires and the NYS Portrait of a Graduate, while our Family Instructional Academy, hosted with the PTA, PTSA, and SEPTSA, connected families with ParentSquare, ParentVUE, Bound, and food services.

Congratulations to our MHSSC award recipients! We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and contributions to our schools and students. As November begins, we are grateful for our CUFSD community's continued partnership in strengthening opportunities and experiences for every student.



Shaping Future-Ready Graduates

The CUFSD Parent Advisory Panel met on Oct. 28 to discuss NY Inspires and the NYS Portrait of a Graduate, exploring how family input can help shape future engagement opportunities for students and parents. The Oct. 30 half-day professional development explored these statewide initiatives further, supporting a shared vision for student success. The CUFSD Family Instructional Academy joined families with our parent associations and school support teams, offering opportunities to ask questions, receive personalized guidance on District platforms and resources, and taste a delicious school lunch with our Food Services staff!



Proactive School and Emergency Safety

CUFSD hosted neighboring Orange County school districts for the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) workshop on Oct. 16, focusing on a proactive, team-based approach to threat assessment, school safety, and emergency response protocols. This commitment to safety continued at the Oct. 30 professional development session. Director of Facilities Matt DeRosa, OU BOCES Director of Safety and Security Jeffrey DeLuca, and OU BOCES staff led training to reinforce best practices in first aid, CPR, and AED use.

Important Dates

November 4
BOE Meeting

November 11
Schools Closed

November 12
NJHS Induction

November 13
Picture Day Makeup

November 18
BOE Meeting

November 20-21
CA School Play

November 19 & 24
Parent Teacher Conferences

November 25-27
Schools Closed

Chester Academy



FROM THE CA PRINCIPAL
JOHN FLANAGAN

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching November! As we move through the school year, it is wonderful to see our students continuing to achieve, explore their interests, and take advantage of the many opportunities available at Chester Academy.

The Chester Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony on Oct. 15 in the auditorium. Eleven students received the honor of being inducted into NHS in recognition of their academic achievement, and commitment to the values of the organization. Chapter president Alex Taggart served as the master of ceremonies, helping make the evening a memorable celebration.

I would like to thank Tyra Busigo and our current NHS members for their hard work in organizing a successful event. I would also like to thank the Chester Academy PTSA for providing refreshments following the ceremony.

The Scholastic Book Fair took place at Chester Academy during the week of Oct. 19. This annual event is organized by our librarian, Catherine Incledon, in partnership with the Chester UFSD SEPTSA. It is always wonderful to see our students excited about reading, exploring new titles, and selecting books that match their interests. Thank you to everyone who helped make the book fair a success!

As a reminder, five-week progress reports are available in ParentVUE. If you have not yet reviewed your child's report, I encourage you to do so. If you would like to discuss your child's progress in person, please schedule a conference for one of our upcoming parent-teacher conference days on Nov. 19 or Nov. 24. You may also contact your child's teachers by phone or email at any time with questions or concerns. We appreciate your continued partnership and support!

Congratulations, NHS Inductees!



See Red Ribbon Week's Student Leaders

Ten eighth graders, chosen for their school leadership, represented Chester at the countywide Red Ribbon Week Kickoff Ceremony. Students are encouraged to take what they learned from the day's hands-on learning activities and presentations, and communicate it to peers. Arianna Rojas was "inspired" by the day and said, "I feel like it put into perspective what drugs really do to you, and how it could have such a big impact on your life."



Athletes Soar to Raise Awareness



The Chester Academy varsity wrestling team honored Breast Cancer Awareness Month at the Hudson Valley Plane Pull Competition, helping raise donations for the American Cancer Society!

Chester Elementary



FROM THE CES PRINCIPAL

MARY KATE BOESCH

October was a wonderful month at Chester Elementary School, filled with learning, family fun, and opportunities to celebrate our CES community!

Our Around the World STEAM and Multicultural Family Night was a huge hit! Families shared their cultures with the CES community through presentations, food, games, music, and cultural attire. After exploring the multicultural displays in the cafeteria, families traveled throughout the building to enjoy STEAM activities and around-the-world experiences. Thank you to our CES Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and Ms. Rende, our STEAM and Robotics teacher, for coordinating such an amazing event. We are grateful to all the families who participated and helped make the evening so special!

On Oct. 28 we had a PBIS assembly, where students who earned 10 chips in each of our four RRRS categories — Responsible, Respectful, Ready, and Safe — were welcomed into the Winner's Circle! Students were honored for their hard work and received a Winner's Circle bracelet featuring a brand-new design for the 2026–27 school year. Students also had the exciting opportunity to spin our prize wheel!
We wrapped up October with our annual Halloween parade and classroom celebrations, making for a spook-tacular time for everyone!

There is still so much to look forward to at CES as we head into the fall and winter holiday season. Thank you for continuing to make CES such a special place to learn and grow. Wishing all our families a happy, healthy, and safe November!

If you can be anything, be kind!

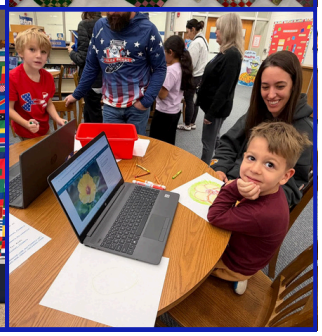
STEAM Around the World

STEAM and Multicultural Family Night brought a world of wonderful lessons in perspective, innovation, and technology. Students were so excited to share their cultural traditions and tackle challenges in coding, programming, and design!









Community Connects through Safety Day

CES students got up-close education on Safety Day, learning about first responders' equipment, and emergency and fire safety tips. Thank you to our parent and community volunteers who supported this hands-on experience!







CES Halloween Parade!













