



March 2024

In this Issue

- Pg. 1** From the Director's Desk
- Pg. 1** The Family Pledge Needs Your Help
- Pg. 2** Save the Date
- Pg. 2** Call for Scholarship Committee Members
- Pg. 2** U-S Scholarship application
- Pg. 3** Student Spotlights
- Pg. 6** Alumni Spotlights
- Pg. 9** District News
- Pg. 13** Transportation Updates
- Pg. 15** Meet the Urban-Suburban Team
- Pg. 16** Meet the Parent Advisory Council

Participating Districts:

- Brighton
- Brockport
- East Irondequoit
- East Rochester
- Fairport
- Hilton
- Honeoye Falls-Lima
- Penfield
- Pittsford
- Rochester
- Rush-Henrietta
- Spencerport
- Webster
- West Irondequoit
- Wheatland-Chili

From the Director's Desk

Greetings Families,

Urban-Suburban program staff are excited to be on this educational journey with you and your student.

As we grow, parental engagement continues to be the heartbeat of the program's success. Working together, we are doing great things! Take advantage of volunteer opportunities and ways to share your talents!

Urban-Suburban program staff are here for every facet of your experience. We look forward to engaging with you and connecting you to all the resources available via the program, community partnerships, and your district.

This edition of the newsletter will re-acquaint you with the program staff, Urban-Suburban Parent Advisory Committee, and share highlights and important information you don't want to miss.

We've enjoyed partnering with you throughout this amazing year and look forward to finishing the year together.

Sincerely,

Felicia A. Smith
Program Director



The Family Pledge Needs Your Help

The Urban-Suburban Scholarship Award Program started in 1985 when parents and program staff agreed that one of the best ways to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Urban-Suburban Program was to honor the achievements of graduates. The Reidman Corporation of Rochester through the auspices of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce donated \$3,000 to cover two award years. At the end of the two-year period, Urban-Suburban parents strongly advocated for the continuation of the scholarship awards. Thanks to Urban-Suburban parents' support and commitment to the Program, \$321,425 has been awarded to 591 deserving students.

The 2024 scholarship fund goal is \$35,000. To date families have raised \$7,000. The single most important contributor to the scholarship fund is the Urban-Suburban parent. Each year parents willingly donate \$50 (tax deductible) to Urban-Suburban. This money goes directly into the scholarship fund.

The Urban-Suburban class of 2024 (75 students) needs your support! You can complete the pledge by mailing a check /money order to Urban-Suburban Program, 11 Linden Park, Rochester, NY 14625 or make an electronic contribution at www.monroe.edu/USpledge by **April 12, 2024**. Our program staff and graduating seniors thank you!

U-S Scholarship Fund



Urban-Suburban Awards Night



We are honoring our 6–12 grade students in person this year! The Urban-Suburban Awards Night is being held at **Nazareth University from 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 23**. The ceremony will be held at Beston Hall inside the Glazer Music Performance Center. Stay tuned for more information and volunteer opportunities.

Join the Urban-Suburban Scholarship Committee

Help us make a difference in the lives of our seniors! We're assembling this year's Urban-Suburban Scholarship selection team, and you are invited to join.

Urban-Suburban is looking for volunteers; **one or two parents of students currently in grades 9–11 from each district**. A high school principal or assistant principal and a counselor complete the committee.

The Scholarship Committee will convene on **Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.** at Urban-Suburban. During the meeting, the committee will collectively review and rank applications to allocate scholarship amounts.

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.

If you are interested in participating, please email Felicia_Smith@boces.monroe.edu.

The Urban-Suburban Scholarship application window is still open!

There's still time for seniors to submit their scholarship application for the 2024 awards. Completed packages should be mailed and they must be received by our office no later than **noon on Thursday, April 18**.

The Urban-Suburban Scholarship package has been mailed to all program seniors. Parents and guardians, school staff, and counselors were all notified via email. A printable version is available on the Urban-Suburban webpage at **www.monroe.edu/USscholarship**.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 585-249-7045.

Student Spotlights

Student of the Month turning options into opportunities

Carlasia Clark is no stranger to the Urban-Suburban newsletter. Her accomplishments are well-known, and they caught our attention in 2022 when the then eighth grade student received the Pittsford Pride Citizenship Recognition Award. Two years and two grades later, Carlasia is still doing great things. The 10th grader was Pittsford Sutherland's Student of the Month for January.

She's been in the Urban-Suburban program since first grade and considers her journey life-changing. Carlasia believes the opportunities she's been afforded are allowing her to both pursue her hobbies and her dreams. Participating in Sutherland's music program led Carlasia to try out for the musical. She ended up playing Sebastian in "The Little Mermaid" and we heard it was a stand-out performance!

The high school also offers a criminal law course, allowing Carlasia to move forward with her goal of becoming a lawyer.

Carlasia is proud of herself for focusing on her schoolwork and for getting the role she wanted in the musical. She told us it can sometimes be challenging, but she feels fortunate to have support from her teachers and peers.



Hockey star shares future goals

To say that **Ethan Muroski** has been playing hockey for a long time is an understatement. He hit the ice at age three and the whole Muroski family supported his growth in the sport. The accompanying picture of Ethan was captured by photographer Jerome Davis after he scored a goal during Penfield's sectional game against Fairport last month. The crowd erupted with excitement when the puck hit the net and the team held Fairport off until the end.

Ethan says he loves his teammates and the fans, so he was excited that his goal helped contribute to a win. Penfield's season sadly ended in the semi-finals, but Ethan still has hockey top-of-mind. After high school he either wants to play junior hockey or go to college to major in urban planning/architecture.

"I couldn't be more grateful and thankful to have the opportunity to go to Penfield," said Ethan. "I've achieved academic success and athletic success that I never even dreamt of."

Back to the whole family loving hockey – Ethan's brother Emmett also goes to Penfield and is all set to play goalie in eighth grade next season.



Senior makes Brighton basketball history

Reggie Smith Jr. is the first student in Brighton Boys Basketball history to reach 1,000 career points. He reached the milestone in January, and as soon as he made the bucket that put him over the top, his teammates and family surrounded him in celebration! There was screaming and hugging, high-fives and photo ops. It's a moment that solidified his status and motivated him to keep scoring.

Reggie ended up closing his Brighton basketball career with 1,198 total points and has been selected to play in the Greater Rochester Ronald McDonald House High School All-Star Basketball Games. The 39th annual event that benefits the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Rochester is known for its selection of the best basketball players in Rochester. It is set for Saturday, March 23, 2024, at Gates Chili High School.

Reggie will be only the fourth Brighton basketball player to participate in the games. He plans to continue to play basketball in college.



Model student shines bright in school and on stage

It is all about balance for **Sydni Powell**. The Penfield Central School District student takes on every opportunity she can, and it has been that way since she joined the Urban-Suburban program in second grade.

Sydni still remembers getting up early and waiting for the bus on her first day at Penfield. She remembers what she was wearing, the nerves and excitement she felt, and the friends she made that day.

Since then, she's been soaking up her schoolwork. Her favorite subjects include English, Biology, Psychology, Sociology, and Forensic Science. Sydni loves being part of the wind ensemble and band, the Penfield Dance Team, and the Black Student Union.

At Penfield she has learned to advocate for herself and communicate her needs. Events like ROC2Change and being asked to speak at the Penfield Family Orientation have shaped who she is. Sydni says she was nervous to talk during orientation, but her message was clear: "Get involved and be prepared. Being the queen or king of asking questions is absolutely okay," she said. "You won't grow or shine if you don't speak up and cause others to do what is necessary for the greater good."

Outside of school, Sydni likes to spend time with friends, dance competitively with The Floor Dance Company, and model when her schedule permits. Through the Mary Therese Friel Modeling Agency, Sydni walked the runway at Rochester Fashion Week, participated in Barbie Fashion shows at The Strong, and posed for pictures featured in (585) Magazine.

Sydni wants to keep dancing in college and is interested in studying Forensic Psychology. She is currently applying to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).



Future engineer gets hands-on experience in high school

Zanya Bruce knows what she wants to do after high school, and she's not waiting until graduation to get experience. Zanya, who is affectionately known as Z to most people, joined the Urban-Suburban program and started in the Fairport Central School District in first grade. It was Fairport's Career Center that suggested she get involved in the ACE Mentoring program.

ACE connects high school students with local architecture, construction, and engineering experts, and Zanya's group has been consulting them to redesign space at the Rochester Public Market. Since the program started, she's made important contacts, had hands-on experience including a presentation at Rochester City Hall, and discovered that she wants to study design engineering in college.

Outside of the ACE Mentoring program, Z likes to spend time with friends and family, and likes playing sports. Z is proud of her spot as the only girl on Fairport's modified JV football team.



Wheatland-Chili Co-Hosts ROC2Change

This spring, Wheatland-Chili High School students helped to empower hundreds of their peers from across the region to be forces for change.

Members of Students Together Against Racism (STAR) collaborated with students at East Irondequoit and Rochester Early College International high schools to organize and co-host the ROC2Change Student Summit on Race. The biannual event centered on combatting racism brings together students from Rochester-area high schools to engage in facilitated dialogue and to address topics such as privilege, implicit bias, racial equity and social justice.

The student organizers of this spring's summit met monthly to work on all aspects of planning, including logistics, programming and branding. The day's theme was "Unity Grows Communities" and included Wheatland-Chili Graduate of Excellence Matthew Cook as a keynote speaker.

The summit took place on March 15 at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Educational Services Center.



Help us celebrate your student's accomplishments!

Every day, our students are accomplishing incredible feats. From academics to extracurriculars, we want to know about it so we can celebrate it! Send us an email with information at Urban_Suburban@boces.monroe.edu and we will spotlight your student on social media. Include your student's name, the school they are attending, and photos for us to use in our posts. Make sure to follow us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/UrbanSuburbanProgram](https://www.facebook.com/UrbanSuburbanProgram)

Alumni Spotlights

Ranita Williams

In the spring of 2020, Ranita Williams was the president of her class at St. John Fisher. She was about to receive her degree and was given the honor of speaking at graduation. She had written her commencement speech, practiced it, and pictured herself on stage.

Then the world shut down.

Fisher offered an online graduation, and Ranita had to make the most of it. With her parents' help, she got dressed in her cap, gown, and sashes, and recorded something different than she had planned. From the podium at her parents' church, she asked her fellow graduates to repeat these words:

I AM AN OVERCOMER.
EACH DAY I RISE
EXPECTING THE IMPOSSIBLE,
FEELING THE INTANGIBLE,
AND SEEING THE INVISIBLE.
THIS IS MY HOPE.
THIS IS OUR HOPE.
THIS IS... AMERICA'S HOPE.



It was a complicated moment for Ranita.

She felt sad because of the state of the world, proud of herself for overcoming the sudden challenge in front of her, and emotional over the support she was getting from near and far as her speech went viral.

Reliving her graduation speech is still a bittersweet moment, but there was another takeaway for Ranita during her reflection. She had the tools to give that speech, and it was not the first time that she had stood up in front of her peers and encouraged them to pursue their dreams.

Ranita is a graduate of the Penfield Central School District. She started going to Penfield in sixth grade when she joined the Urban-Suburban program and looks back fondly on her time there. She was fully engaged in activities like student council and her schoolwork, made life-long friends, and had a great relationship with her teachers.

In fact, one teacher correctly predicted what Ranita's career would be! Ranita comes from a family of educators, but back in high school she wanted to be a doctor. "I was sharing that with one of my teachers when I was a senior and she said 'oh, you're going to become a teacher.' Hey, she was right," remembers Ranita.

Penfield also allowed her to pursue experiences like a trip to Europe, and a conference hosted by the West Irondequoit Central School District. At the conference, they were joined by students from other local schools and students from St. Louis, Missouri. The summit was called Gateway2Change. It invited schools to challenge the culture of diversity in their communities and directly inspired the ROC2Change summit.

At the end of the summit Ranita recalls asking her peers, principal, and superintendent if they could do this back at Penfield. “My friend nudged me and said ‘Ranita say something, we should do it!’ And I got up and shared with all the other students and adults in the room that Penfield will host the next summit.”

Four months later Penfield hosted the May 2016 summit, which is now considered the second ever ROC2Change. Ranita still sits on the Advisory Board eight years later.

Penfield and the Urban-Suburban program helped her gain the tools to succeed in other ways too. “Just having the experience of being around people who come from different backgrounds, different family styles, different religions or beliefs, just being able to work with such different types of kinds of people really have prepared me for where I am today.”

Ranita is a special education teacher with the Rochester City School District Youth and Justice Program (Y&J). She works in the University of Rochester Medical Center’s Child and Adolescent Partial Hospitalization Service to treat students who are struggling with their mental health.

“They come here during the day to get treatment, but they also have to complete three hours of school, so they spend about half of their day with me, and we do schoolwork,” explained Ranita. Her time includes talking about skills you may use in a school setting and working on a transition back to school.

Before Ranita started at Y&J, she was a teacher in the West Irondequoit Central School District and was able to connect with the Urban-Suburban students there. “I was once in Urban-Suburban and I know how it feels. And just to have a Black teacher who was also in U-S, and being able to have someone who does understand what you’re going through, it makes a difference for students,” said Ranita.

Her message to current U-S students is this: “Don’t change yourself for anybody. Be who you are, be who you were created to be. This is your life journey; you have to make the most of it.”

That advice comes from experience. She’s currently at the University of Rochester earning her Master’s degree in Teaching and Curriculum.

Visit monroe.edu/us to watch Ranita’s commencement address and to learn more about the Youth and Justice Program.

- **Youth and Justice Programs Overview:** <https://www.rcsdk12.org/yjp>
- **Ranita Williams Addresses #Fisher2020** ([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...))



Qianna Reaves-Campbell

Purpose, passion drive Urban-Suburban graduate to become an educator

The first class of Rush-Henrietta kindergarten Urban-Suburban students walked through the doors of Crane Elementary this school year, and the person there to greet them was a woman who's familiar with their journey. Qianna Reaves-Campbell is the Assistant Principal at Crane, and she was in the Urban-Suburban program too. "I was able to tell them my story, which was phenomenal, and it feels so good that these kids will have the opportunity kind of like I did to go through their full career through Rush-Henrietta, which was so important to me. I loved having that through Urban-Suburban."

Reaves-Campbell was in first grade when she joined the Pittsford Central School District, and she soaked up the opportunities available to her during her time there. She was a cheerleader who participated in plays and musicals and received a scholarship from the Urban-League of Rochester as a senior. "I really felt like I embraced Pittsford in the community, and they embraced me, and I had some really great people that supported me."

That's where her love for education started. Reaves-Campbell was able to shadow a teacher during her senior year at Pittsford and noticed that there were a couple of African American students in the class. That empowered her to continue down the path and become an educator that looks like them. She didn't have one teacher of color when she was in school, but she could be that for incoming African American students.

"My experience with Urban-Suburban gave me insight into what was great and the opportunities that were out there, but also what was missing and what opportunities I wanted to give to students that weren't necessarily Urban-Suburban, but also students that were just students of color that were in a minority population," reflected Reeves-Campbell.

She started her teaching career in Rush-Henrietta 15 years ago, becoming an Academic Intervention Specialist, a fourth-grade teacher, and a second-grade teacher before getting her administrative degree and coming back to R-H. Being an Assistant Principal is her passion.

When asked if she has any advice for current Urban-Suburban students, Reeves-Campbell said, "Be authentically yourself. You bring so much to the table, you are such a gem and so important to our society. Wherever you are, at the end of the day, they are lucky to have you and make sure that you understand that. Never change who you are. Be a part of the community. Make sure that you take advantage of anything and everything they have to offer and make sure that they know that there is such a wealth within you."



District Updates

Brighton

Seniors Celebrated at Urban-Suburban Family Social

Brighton Central School District recognized its seniors at the annual Urban-Suburban Family Social on February 7 at Council Rock Primary School. Representatives from the District and Urban-Suburban Program were on hand to connect with families and share in the celebration. A Brighton High School saxophone ensemble also performed.



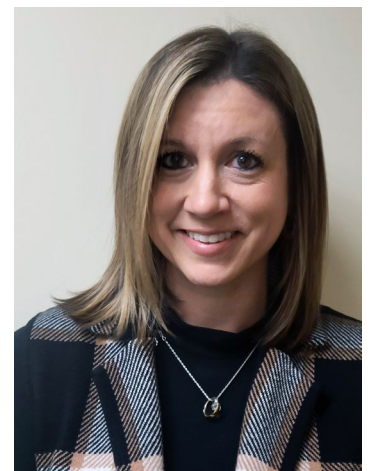
Hilton

Hilton welcomes Sheena Eckler as special education specialist

A new districtwide special education specialist is now serving the Hilton school district. Sheena Eckler has replaced Beth Kusse who retired on Jan. 2.

Eckler most recently worked for the Rochester City School District as an associate director of special education. Her 18-year tenure also included working as a transition specialist, lead teacher mentor for new special education teachers, and an elementary special education teacher at the World of Inquiry School #58.

Eckler is a graduate of St. John Fisher University with a bachelor's degree in childhood education, a Master of Science in Special Education, and certificates in Educational Leadership - School Building Leader and School District Leader.



Sheena Eckler

Pittsford

Leadership Retirements Announced

The Pittsford Central School District Board of Education accepted retirement letters from Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Melanie Ward, Allen Creek Elementary School Principal Michael Biondi, and Teacher Center Director Julie Barker.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction **Melanie Ward** will retire from her position as of June 30, and then will be appointed as Deputy Superintendent to assist with these leadership transitions. She will stay on in this new role until December 2024. “Mrs. Ward has served in the District as principal of Mendon Center Elementary School and Assistant Superintendent,” said Superintendent Michael Pero. “Her gift for managing a multitude of committees and developing first class curriculum will be missed.”

Michael Biondi, Allen Creek Elementary School Principal, will assist with the transition of a new principal at the school with a final retirement date of October 2024. He will also be working on special projects and assisting with the mentorship of newer elementary school administrators. Prior to his long-standing role as principal of Allen Creek Elementary School, Biondi served as a teacher in the District and assistant principal at Mendon Center Elementary School. “Mr. Biondi is a beloved principal with a talent for leading with his heart,” said Superintendent Michael Pero. “We will miss his leadership style, enthusiasm for continuous improvement, and sense of humor.”

Teacher Center Director **Julie Barker** will be retiring effective July 1, 2023. Prior to becoming the Director of the Pittsford Teacher Center in 2007, she served as the Standards Leader for Elementary and Secondary Social Studies and taught Economics at Mendon and Sutherland High Schools from 2000-2007. Barker joined the District in 1995 as a social studies teacher at Pittsford Middle School. “Mrs. Barker’s talent for developing and leading professional development courses has been paramount in helping teachers and staff practice continuous improvement and excellence in their fields,” said Superintendent Pero.

“We have developed a succession plan around these three key positions,” said Superintendent Michael Pero. “Our retiring administrators will take a wealth of experience and expertise with them, so we want to create a solid transition that will put their replacements on good footing from the start. I am grateful that we will benefit during this transition period from the skills and talents of these leaders for mentorship, consultation and special projects.”



Melanie Ward



Michael Biondi



Julie Barker

Clayton appointed Pittsford's Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

The Pittsford Central School District Board of Education has appointed **Heather Clayton** as Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. The appointment follows a thorough search and interview process. "Heather has that rare mix of knowledge and experience and serves with a truly collaborative style. I'm confident that she is the right person to take Pittsford Schools to the next level in our continuous pursuit of improvement," said Superintendent Michael Pero.

Clayton is currently serving as principal at Pittsford's Mendon Center Elementary School and expressed, "It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Mendon Center community as principal for the past 13 years. As Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, I look forward to continuing the work of collaborating with incredible educators to create dynamic learning opportunities for our students across the District."

Having served as Mendon Center Elementary's principal since 2011, Clayton will begin her new role as Assistant Superintendent for Instruction on July 1, 2024. Previously she was an elementary school teacher in Pittsford CSD and elementary school principal in the Greece CSD, and a teacher and ELA Standards Leader in the West Irondequoit CSD.

Clayton is replacing retiring ASI Melanie Ward who will return to serve the District as Deputy Superintendent through November 2024. The focus of her responsibilities will be to assist with the transition and support of non-tenured and newly hired elementary principals, among others.



Inclusivity and Continuous Improvement Remains a Priority for Pittsford Schools

Pittsford Central School District is again partnering with Natalie McGee from Progression Partners to help evaluate and ensure an optimal learning environment for all PCSD students. McGee and Orlando Benzan, Pittsford Schools' Coordinator of Equity and Inclusivity, conducted focus groups this fall with Pittsford students, parents and teachers, visited secondary schools and met with principals as part of the District's ongoing commitment to continuous improvement. The focus groups offered the opportunity for in-depth dialogue with students, parents and teachers regarding diversity, equity and inclusion while "equity walks" through the secondary schools and discussions with principals helped shed a light on areas of success as well as key challenges to address. "The end goal is to get a better perspective on what we are doing, what is working well, and what needs to be strengthened," said Superintendent Pero.



Rush-Henrietta

Celebrating African Americans and the Arts

The community was invited to join students and staff from Rush-Henrietta Senior High School for a wonderful evening of education and celebration of excellence in Black and African American history through the arts on February 29. The student-led event featured music, art, African drumming, storytelling, and more! Rush-Henrietta Senior High School students were joined by professional performers for the free event, which was a celebration of both national and local contributions to the arts, featuring well-known and original pieces.



Webster

Webster CSD Community Approves Capital Improvement Project

The district's proposed capital improvement project, *Building Our Future*, will begin in Webster following a community-wide vote that approved the \$85 million project.

Building Our Future will affect all 11 schools with zero tax impact for district residents. The project focuses on the district's ongoing commitment to providing a safe educational environment for students. It includes safety and security upgrades, roofing, and improvements to interior and exterior building spaces, including the expansion of the One Webster Learning Center (OWL) special education program at Willink Middle School. As the project moves forward, the district will provide updates to the One Webster community.

Webster CSD Holds Second Annual Convening on Equity in Education & New Student Leadership Breakfast

Webster CSD welcomed parents, families, and community members to the Second Annual Convening on Equity in Education on Saturday, March 23. The program featured guest speakers and Webster CSD student participants involved in diversity and equity efforts in the Webster community.

The district also welcomed secondary student leaders to the inaugural Webster CSD Student Leadership Breakfast Fun Day on Saturday, March 9. This new event was centered on student talents, student issues, student voice, and student leaders, along with food and fun.

Webster Teachers Association Gives Away 40,000 Free Books to Families and Educators

The Webster Teachers Association (WTA), WTA CARES, and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) partnered with Webster CSD and Webster Central PTSA to give away 40,000 FREE children's books to students, educators, and classrooms during WTA's Fall Into Reading Festival on November 4, 2023. The book giveaway was made possible by a grant from AFT and First Book.

Approximately 3,000 area families and educators stopped by the Webster Thomas High School field house to receive 40,000 FREE books as part of this community-wide event. The festival also featured food trucks, visits from Webster CSD school mascots, an opportunity to explore a fire truck, and other enjoyable family activities. Thank you to the countless WCSD volunteers who made this event possible!



Transportation Updates

Transportation Notes

- A change is being made to the Route 5/Portland drop-off point at **Eastridge High School**. Starting April 1, 2024, students will exit the bus in the morning at the stop on the corner of Ridge Road and Vinedale Avenue, which is on the north side of Ridge Road. This is the same bus stop that the students utilize to board the bus in the afternoon.

The route update is the result of a meeting between RTS and students that prioritized student voice.

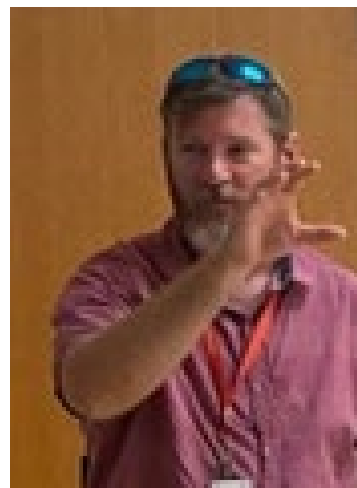
Warm weather reminders for school bus safety

- Obey and respect the bus driver at all times.
- Respect the property and personal rights of others while on the bus.
- Board the bus in an orderly manner, go immediately to your seat and buckle your seat belt for safety.
- Please do not eat or drink on the bus.
- Keep your hands and feet out of the aisles.
- Remain seated at all times while on the bus.
- Use low voices when speaking to each other while on the bus.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- Do not use profanity, offensive language, or demean fellow students.
- Report problems immediately to the bus driver and contact Urban-Suburban: 585-249-7045.
- Have an enjoyable ride!



Thank you, transportation professionals!

The Urban-Suburban Program appreciates the bus drivers, monitors, and the staff behind the scenes who make sure our students get to and from school safely. Your commitment to reliability and professionalism does not go unnoticed. Thank you for your continued service. We are truly grateful for all that you do!



Meet the Urban-Suburban Team



Felicia A. Smith

Program Director, 585-249-7046

"The Urban-Suburban program affords all those involved diverse and enriching learning opportunities. It is nurtured and supported by dedicated students, parents, staff and partners who share the common goal to voluntarily reduce racial isolation and the segregation of academic opportunities. This educational partnership advances and connects our communities. I am humbled and honored to serve the first and oldest voluntary desegregation program in the United States."



Monique I. DeVries

Education Specialist, 585-249-7048

Point of contact for Brighton, East Rochester, Honeoye Falls-Lima, Webster, West Irondequoit

"I am excited to be on the staff of a program with such rich history in Rochester. As an Education Specialist, I hope to further Urban-Suburban's mission of decentralizing poverty and enhancing the educational opportunities for all students. My goal is to ensure students and families are equipped with the tools they need to have a thriving educational journey."



Bonnie Eaton

P/T Support Staff, 585-249-7049

"I'm very proud to be a part of the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program. I am looking forward to working with the program staff, families, and districts."



Shateela Hill

Education Specialist, 585-249-7051

Point of contact for Brockport, East Irondequoit, Fairport, Rush-Henrietta, Wheatland-Chili

"I was a student in the Urban-Suburban Program from 6th–12th grade. I graduated from Brockport Central School District in 2012. My time spent in the program afforded me with a unique perspective on the program first as a former student, and now as an Education Specialist. As a member of the Urban-Suburban team, I hope to relate to the students on a personal level and aid them with their transition into the program, and success beyond graduation."



Angela McFarland

Support Staff, 585-249-7045

"It is my pleasure and honor to be associated with such a positive and historic Program. The opportunity to help our students and families with their fantastic journey with Urban-Suburban makes it worthwhile to come to work. Lastly, working with such a professional and dedicated staff has benefited me with my work."



Latasha Pride

Education Specialist, 585-249-7047

Point of contact for Hilton, Penfield, Pittsford, Spencerport

"I am so thrilled to be an Education Specialist with Urban-Suburban. As an alum, I look forward to guiding students and parents through their educational journey, like those before me have so graciously done. My ambition is to continue our mission to voluntarily decrease racial isolation, deconcentrate poverty and enhance opportunities for all students beyond graduation."

Meet the Parent Advisory Council

Urban-Suburban Parent Advisory Council (PAC) 2023-2024



Chair
Brockport
Janice Kpor
jankhelen@gmail.com



Co-Chair
Spencerport
Karen Bloss
kjbloss77@gmail.com



Secretary
Brockport
Caroline McClendon
caroline.mccleendon@outlook.com



**Brockport/
East Rochester**
Sylvanna King
sylvanna_king@yahoo.com



East Irondequoit
Shetara Bigham
shetara.bigham@gmail.com



East Irondequoit
Carly Chung-Stowe
Carly14619@yahoo.com



East Irondequoit
Alesia Tellez
alesiatellez01@gmail.com



Fairport
Yoshida Blackman
miyokoblackman@yahoo.com



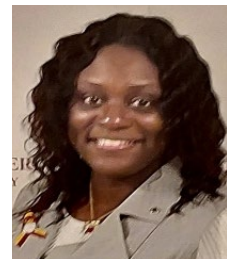
Fairport
Nkechi Obieke
msobiekie@gmail.com



Penfield
Frankie Gissendanner
frankiegiss74@gmail.com



Penfield
Nikki Gissendanner
ngiss1@hotmail.com



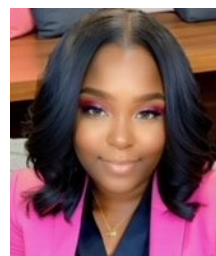
Pittsford
Latoshi Clark
lanncClark16@gmail.com



Pittsford
Whitley Fling
wfling88@gmail.com



Rush-Henrietta
Andrea Mann
mrs.stewart27@gmail.com



West Irondequoit
Arielle Copeland
Aripenn07@gmail.com



Wheatland-Chili
Deonna Edwards
edwards1016@gmail.com

Parent Representatives Needed!

The Urban-Suburban Parent Advisor Council (PAC) is seeking dedicated parent representatives to join from the following Urban-Suburban school districts:

- Brighton
- Hilton
- Honeoye Falls-Lima
- Webster

The Council is made up of parent volunteers with at least one from each district. The Council's role is to support the program by advocating for students and other parents. Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month, 6:00–7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise indicated).

Interested? Email USPACteam@gmail.com and Felicia_Smith@boces.monroe.edu



Visit the Urban-Suburban Program website at:
www.monroe.edu/US

A program of

