



News about...

Fall 2016

Urban **US** Suburban

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Message from the Program Director:

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program, coordinated by Monroe #1 BOCES. On behalf of the program staff, we're excited to begin a new school year and look forward to all the wonderful opportunities it will bring to you, your child and their school.

This program has a rich history and legacy of excellence primarily due to the level of involvement and commitment parents bring to it. In an effort to support parents, and based upon the results of the survey program parents completed last year, Urban-Suburban has redesigned how our parent meetings will be organized. In the past, meetings have been designated by districts, but as of September 2016, meetings will be organized by grade levels and subject matter. For example, any parent that has a child in grades 1-5 can attend that meeting. Who can attend a meeting will no longer be determined by what district your child attends. It is my hope that by redesigning parent meetings, they will be more informative and beneficial and provide you with the tools you will need to advocate and support your child.



Below are the parent group meeting dates for 2016-17. All families that are new to Urban-Suburban are required to attend three (3) parent meetings for the 2016-17 school year; all others must attend two (2). Check our website, www.monroe.edu/us for meeting locations and start times.

Participating Districts:

Brighton
Brockport
East Irondequoit
East Rochester
Fairport
Hilton
Penfield
Pittsford
Rochester
Spencerport
Webster
West Irondequoit
Wheatland-Chili

Coordinated by



Parent Group Meeting Dates 2016-17

Grades 1-12

9/28 Program Wide*
10/4 Transportation
12/15 Cyber Safety & Etiquette
2/7 Transportation
2/16 Youth Fair
3/23 Program Wide*

Grades 1-5

10/18 Parent Teacher Conferences
1/19 Bullying Prevention
3/2 Parent Teacher Conferences

Grades 6-8

11/9 Academics/Athletics
1/19 Bullying Prevention

Grades 9-12

11/9 Academics/Athletics
1/24 College & Career Prep

****Parents only please. No children.****

Please Note: These are the dates for Parent Meetings; however there may be conditions beyond our control that occur during the school year that may cause some dates to change. If you have any questions, please contact the Urban-Suburban office at (585) 249-7045. If you do not meet your Parent Meeting requirement, you will be referred to the Superintendent of your district.

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(Message from the Program Director, continued from front)

Always remember that when parents become active partners in their children's education, there are profound and comprehensive benefits for students, families and schools. You, *the parents*, are the glue that holds the student, family, school and Urban-Suburban partnership together. Know that program staff will be available to support you in any way possible. Don't hesitate to contact us at 249-7045 with any questions, concerns or suggestions. Have an awesome year and we are excited and looking forward to seeing you at the first program-wide Urban-Suburban parent meeting on, **September 28; 7:00PM**; Irondequoit High School Auditorium, 260 Cooper Road, Rochester.

Warmest regards,
Theresa J. Woodson

Save the Dates: Back to School Events

Sept. 19: East Rochester School District Luncheon—10:55am

Sept. 20: Wheatland-Chili Middle/High School Breakfast—7:30am

Sept. 21: Mendon High School Breakfast—7:30am

Sept. 22: Brighton High School Luncheon—11am

Sept. 23: Johanna Perin Middle School—8am

Sept. 29: Brockport High School Breakfast—9am

Sept. 30: Sutherland High School Breakfast—7:45am

Oct. 4: Fairport High School Breakfast—7am

Oct. 5: Irondequoit High School Breakfast—8am

Oct. 12: Minerva Deland School Breakfast—7:45am



Senior Night

The Urban-Suburban Program will host its third annual meeting for all graduating seniors and their parents on **Monday, September 19th; 6:00pm** at Wilson Foundation Academy, 200 Genesee Street, Rochester, New York.

The meeting will provide pertinent information on college admissions and the Urban-Suburban scholarship application process, and will feature a panel of Urban-Suburban alumni who will share their experiences and speak to topics including:

- College application process
- Urban-Suburban scholarship application process
- HEOP/Financial Aid
- SUNY colleges vs. Private colleges
- Networking, advocacy & your elevator speech

A representative from Nazareth College will provide information on the Scholarship Partnership between the College and the Urban-Suburban Program.

Dr. Cheryl McKeiver, President of Nativity Preparatory Academy will give a presentation focusing on Personal Development, Financial Aid, and College Readiness.

Please note: All graduating seniors **are required** to attend as students will take the senior class photo.

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| ROCHESTER HBCU COLLEGE  FAIR | SAVE THE DATE! |
|--|-----------------------|

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016

**Rochester Riverside Convention Center
123 East Main Street
Rochester, NY 14604**

| Rochester City School District Demographics | 2015 HBCU College Fair Highlights |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Just under 30,000 Students ▪ 60.1% African American/Black ▪ 25.6% Hispanic ▪ 10.2% White ▪ 4.1% Asian/Native American/East Indian/Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 27 colleges represented ▪ Attendance: 600+, 11th and 12th graders ▪ 59 students admitted on-site ▪ \$1.5 million+ in scholarships awarded ▪ Free and open to all area school districts |

To reserve your spot and for more information, please call or email:

Kimberly Huffman, Rochester City School District
131 W. Broad Street, Rochester, NY 14614
Direct: 585-262-8403 or Kimberly.Huffman@RCSDK12.org

Sponsored by:



Monroe Community College
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The Camp Cory Experience

In June and July, 20 students in the Urban-Suburban Program, attending Barker and Calkins Road Middle Schools in the Pittsford Central School District, had the opportunity to attend the YMCA's Camp Cory. For many of these students, this was their first experience with an overnight camp. Needless to say, there was some apprehension around being away from home for both parents and students.

Camp Cory is located along the shores of Keuka Lake in Penn Yan, NY, about an hour and a half east of Rochester. On Sunday of the week that the campers signed up for camp, they loaded up in their families' car with their supplies, in order to check-in for their week of camp. From Sunday through Saturday, students lived free of cell phones and any other type of electronics. Limited communication was allowed with their families through US mail or bunk notes, a fee-based email service available to families.

During the week, campers engaged in activities such as log rolling, camp fires, swim parties, 5k and Color Run, just to name a few. Each week had its own theme, and activities throughout the week centered on that particular theme. For example, the theme for the week of July 3–9 was *America the Beautiful*. Activities for that week included recreating famous US historical events and a Fourth of July celebration. These activities and the total camping experience promoted teambuilding, skill development, and even helped some campers overcome fears.

Samari Brown was one of three original Pittsford students to attend Camp Cory in the summer of 2015. She, along with two of her Barker Road Middle School classmates, was awarded a full scholarship by the Carl Metzler Memorial Fund to attend camp. As a result of their experiences, their former French teacher Jeanne Strazzabosco continued her efforts to send more students in the Pittsford Central School District to summer camp. Thus, the partnership between the Urban-Suburban Program, YMCA Camp Cory, and Pittsford Schools was born.

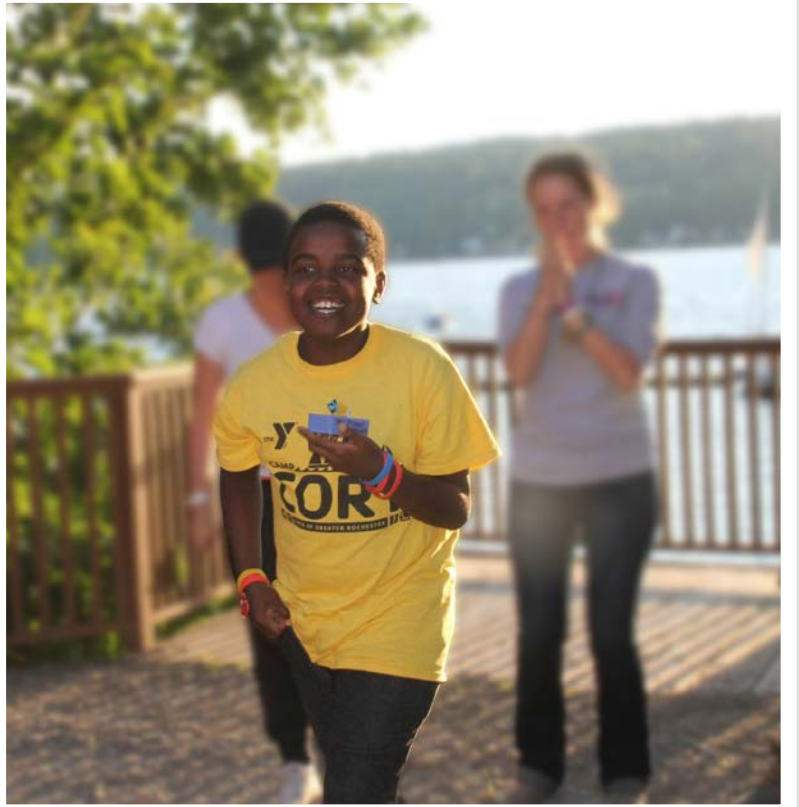
"The first time that I went to camp, I thought that it was going to be awful. I thought that I was going to miss my family and that I'd want to go home before the day was over with. I later found out that things were completely different. The camp counselors and the friends that I met made it feel like home. At camp, you're up and around all day, so it makes it kind of hard to miss your lifestyle at home. Camp made me more comfortable with trying things that I never would have imagined to do on my own. I wouldn't think of not going back to camp next year. Being at Camp Cory is truly an amazing experience for anyone who goes." - *Samari Brown*

For Sasha Anderson, Lluvia Pound, and Kennedy Sayres, this was their first experience with summer camp.

What is your favorite memory from your week at camp?

- KS: "Late night devotion "devo." It was a time to review the day and personal things that made me feel closer to my bunk mates."
- "My favorite part of camp was canoeing and kayaking because I had a lot of fun. Hailey, the canoeing instructor, was really nice and I really like jumping in the water."

(continued on next page)



- SA: “My favorite memory of Camp Cory would have to be meeting different people from different countries and becoming friends with them. Also, singing campfire songs at the campfire.

What did you discover about yourself?

- KS: “That I am a leader, and I’m very outgoing and welcoming.”
- LP: “The thing that I discovered most was that I wasn’t afraid of spiders. At camp, I had to kill a lot of them. At home if I saw a spider, I would ask my dad to get rid of it. Now, I can do that on my own.”
- SA: “What I’ve discovered about myself was that I would like to be a counselor. I would like to meet new kids every week.”

What advice would you give to a friend who is thinking about going to Camp Cory next summer?

- KS: “They should totally go; I highly recommend it. Stay positive and look forward to new activities. I also suggest going for a family overnight with your family.”
- LP: “Bring some warm blankets, a mini fan, and lots of snacks. Sometimes it was hot and sometimes it was really cold at night. As for the snacks, my cabin shared snacks. When we had our nightly talks, we ate food on our beds.”
- SA: “Camp Cory was so much fun. We did so many fun things, and there were so many nice people there. You would always enjoy your time there. I would like to thank Mrs. Strazzabosco and Camp Cory for letting me have this amazing experience and opportunity to go to this camp!”

Reflections from a parent’s perspective:

- As a young child, I went to a similar camp in Cortland, NY; a bible camp. I enjoyed the country setting and all the activities I never had a chance to do growing up in the city, like camping, archery, and fishing. I always cried when the week was over and it was time to go back home, knowing it would be another year until I had the experience again. When I arrived with Sasha to get her settled in for the week, seeing the set up of the campground and the country setting instantly brought back memories of my childhood. I knew she would have the time of her life.”
- Kennedy did not want to come home. She said that if she could see her family on the weekend, she would want to stay. She really enjoyed her week.
- The family should definitely attend the family overnight. It gives you a chance to see what your camper will be doing.
- LET THEM GO! It was hard not talking to my daughter all week, but bunk notes eased my nerves. The Camp Cory staff was amazing! They made me feel welcomed which assured me that my daughter was in good hands for the week.

The goal is to continue this partnership and afford a new group of students the opportunity to attend Camp Cory next summer. If you would like more information about this initiative or are interested in making a donation, please contact Jeanne Strazzabosco at jeannestrazzabosco@gmail.com or (585) 943-6031.



Nazareth Partners With Rochester's Urban-Suburban Program With Support And Scholarships

A new collaboration between Nazareth College and Rochester's Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program is offering students in the nation's first and oldest voluntary school desegregation program the promise of outstanding scholarships and support as they enter their college years.

Nazareth is partnering with the Urban-Suburban Program on multiple levels including:

- Urban-Suburban students are now eligible for all scholarships and grants that are currently available for Rochester City School District (RCSD) students accepted to Nazareth College.
- The Urban-Suburban Program is now an official partner organization of the Nazareth College Young Scholars Program (an educational experience for high-achieving students that establishes a career path by promoting academic achievement, collaboration, and leadership. Students selected to participate are identified by teachers and administrators who have established partnerships with Nazareth College, including the Urban-Suburban program and four schools in New York City.)
- Nazareth will provide workshops on college readiness, evaluation and preparation on an annual calendar.



Ian Mortimer, Vice President of Enrollment Management, speaking to Program parents about the partnership between Nazareth College and the Urban-Suburban Program.

"I am so very pleased that Nazareth is partnering with the Urban-Suburban Program here in Rochester to help ensure that students have access to a premier college education after graduation from high school," said Nazareth President Daan Braveman. "In some respects, I feel like things have come full circle. Many years ago, as a practicing lawyer, I represented the Urban-Suburban Program when the federal government threatened to withhold funds and close the program. We brought a lawsuit in Washington and succeeded in maintaining the funds that allowed it to continue its operations. Now, decades later, I have the pleasure of once again working directly with this vital Program."

"Nazareth is, and always has been, about making a difference in the community," said Theresa Woodson, Program Director. "We see their impact throughout Rochester every day, and I am delighted that our organizations can work together to mold the next generation of leadership for our collective futures."

Celebrating more than 50 years of excellence, the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program began in the West Irondequoit School District in September 1965 with the mission of voluntarily reducing racial isolation and the segregation of academic opportunities in New York State. Last year the mission was expanded to deconcentrate poverty. To accomplish the new mission, pupils residing in participating districts may apply for transfer from the Rochester City School District to suburban school districts, or from suburban districts to the Rochester City School District.

"This partnership is another example of Nazareth's commitment to providing higher education opportunities for students from underrepresented and underserved populations," said Gabriel Marshall, Nazareth's Director of Student Success and Achievement Programs. "By enriching the lives of local students and their families through academic, cultural, and social experiences, this collaboration will strengthen our community and our institution."

The kick-off to the partnership will take place on Monday, September 19th as members from the Nazareth College community work with parents and students to begin the college planning process at the Program's annual Senior Night.

Nazareth College's academic strengths cross an unusually broad spectrum of 60 majors, including education, health and human services, management, the fine arts, music, theater, math and science, foreign languages, and the liberal arts. The coeducational, religiously independent, classic campus in a charming suburb of Rochester, N.Y. challenges and supports 2,000 undergrads and 800 graduate students. Nazareth is recognized nationally for its Fulbright global student scholars and commitment to civic engagement. Rigorous programs, an uncommon core, experiential learning, career skills, and a global focus prepare graduates for not just one job, but for their life's work.

Urban-Suburban Hosts its 6th Annual Award Ceremony

On May 26, 2016, the Urban-Suburban Program held its 6th Annual Award Ceremony to recognize the academic accomplishments of our students in grades 6–12, including graduating seniors and scholarship recipients. This year, 438 students received an award.

Students received awards based on the following criteria:

Core Honors Awards: Average grade for 3 marking periods of 80–89% in Math, science, English and social studies/history.

Academic Achievement: Average grade for three (3) marking periods of 90% to 94% in Math, science, English and social studies/history.

Academic Excellence: Average grade for 3 marking periods of 95% or more in Math, science, English and social studies/history.

Perfect Attendance: Maintained perfect attendance for first three marking periods.

Principal's Award: Recipient participates with students, faculty and staff in an effort to reduce minority group isolation; works to the best of his/her ability to achieve academic excellence; and demonstrates he/she is a responsible citizen.

Scholarship Awards: Be in good standing with the program; maintain at least a “C” average; be accepted at or made plans to attend an institution of high learning.

For a full listing of award recipients, visit http://www.monroe.edu/files/5825/2016_us_awards_program_halfpgsize%20222.pdf

The award ceremony also honors Friends of the Program for their service and commitment. The Special Service Award acknowledges someone who has given unwavering dedication and commitment to the students, parents, administrators, school faculty and staff of the Program. This year, we recognized five individuals who have made significant contributions to the Program.

- **Connie Jones**—Parent Advisory Council Member
- **Jessica Lewis**—former Urban-Suburban staff member
- **Jeanne Strazzabosco**—former Pittsford French teacher responsible for spearheading the Camp Cory/Urban-Suburban Partnership
- **Frank Wandtke**—Colfax Terminal Manager, First Student
- **Ericka Worth**—Parent Advisory Council Member

The Urban-Suburban Program would like to thank everyone that was a part of making this night a success. Congratulations to all of our award recipients!

(Photo Gallery on next pages)



Photo Gallery: 6th Annual Award Ceremony





Class of 2016 Receives \$22,500 in Urban-Suburban Scholarships

Last year, in commemoration of the Urban-Suburban Program's 50th Anniversary, families increased their annual pledge from \$15 to \$50. The pledge funds the Urban-Suburban Scholarship Fund, in support of the Program's graduating seniors. The pledge increase was extremely successful, yielding the highest annual pledge amount since the inception of the scholarship fund. The Program has decided to continue the \$50 annual pledge. As a result of the annual pledges and proceeds from the 3-on-3 Basketball Scholarship Tournament, \$22,787 was raised—setting a new record!

On May 7, the Urban-Suburban Scholarship Committee convened and awarded \$21,500 in college scholarships to 24

students. The awards ranged from \$500 to \$1,550. Scholarship recipients must be Urban-Suburban students in good standing, scheduled to graduate in the year the application was submitted, have at least a "C" average, and plan to attend college the September or January following their high school graduation. Scholarship awards are sent directly to the designated college in August of each year.

In addition, the Monroe #1 BOCES Educational Foundation awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship to a graduating senior in the Urban-Suburban Program. This scholarship can be received directly by the student and used to assist with out-of-pocket college expenses, such as books. The Educational Foundation intends to designate this scholarship annually.

All scholarship recipients were recognized at the annual Urban-Suburban awards ceremony and their respective schools' awards ceremonies in May and June.

This year's Scholarship Committee consisted of six volunteers: four current program parents and two district representatives. The program seeks new volunteers each year, affording current high school parents of the program an opportunity to learn about the Urban-Suburban scholarship and application process. In order to be a committee member, parent volunteers must have a student in grades 9–11. It is never too early to sign-up. If you are interested in serving on the scholarship committee for the Class of 2017, please contact Community Liaison Felicia Smith at (585) 249-7048.



2016 Scholarship Committee:

Seated Left to right: Lynne Drake, Counselor at Pittsford Sutherland HS; Lieselle Taylor, Urban-Suburban PAC Co-Chair & Pittsford Parent; Dr. Leslie Maloney, Principal Penfield HS
Standing Left to right: Precious Moses, Brockport Parent; Frankie Gissendanner, Penfield Parent; Lisa Partee, West Irondequoit Parent

Transformation of Urban-Suburban National Science Bowl Teams

After eight years of local and national competition, the Urban-Suburban National Science Bowl teams are transforming into individual participating school district National Science Bowl teams. The original teams' founder and coach, Mr. Kelvin James Knight (Pittsford Mendon '85) is a graduate of the Urban-Suburban Inter-District Transfer Program. Mr. Knight plans to continue to coach both of the newly formed high school and middle school National Science Bowl teams.

In the past, the science teams consisted of Urban-Suburban students and a few suburban resident students that practiced weekly at the University of Rochester. The teams visited local colleges and the U of R campus Science and Engineering Departments. They have traveled throughout the country to compete nationally in Washington, D.C., Indianapolis, and New Orleans. For many years, the science teams were very competitive facing local and regional teams, placing second or third in several regional science competitions.

During the 2015–2016 school year, Brighton Twelve Corners Middle School formed a new National Science Bowl team. Mr. Knight, with tremendous support and encouragement from Principal Rob Thomas, the school's leadership team, students, and parents, was very successful in recruiting students for the middle school science team, consisting of Urban-Suburban and district resident students. The team participated in the Western New York National Science Bowl Regional competition held in March 2016, winning the first three rounds.

Mr. Knight is currently working on starting a high school National Science Bowl team among the participating Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program districts. Any interested students, parents, or districts leaders should contact Mr. Knight at (585) 713-5093 or kelvin.knight@rocketmail.com. To see photos and videos of the Urban Suburban National Science Bowl team visit our webpages at: <http://www.aesrochester.4t.com/USAAvideo.html>.



Urban-Suburban Seniors Receive Black Scholars Recognition

On June 14, 2016, the Urban League of Rochester, NY, Inc. held its 37th Annual Salute to Black Scholars Recognition Dinner at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. The Salute to Black Scholars recognizes the outstanding academic achievement among graduating Black high school students. Students must earn a B or higher cumulative grade point average at the end of seven semesters leading into the spring of their senior year. In 2016, there were 485 Black Scholars.

Congratulations to the following Black Scholars from the Urban-Suburban Class of 2016:

Brighton High School

Clarence Henry

Brockport High School

Ayanah Alexander
Joseph Cooper

Fairport High School

Wanya Bruce
Destinee Johnson
Shemar Watkins

Irondequoit High School

Ty'reek Sizer
Jordan Stewart
Diamond Valion

Penfield High School

Deja Baxter
Eboni Jackson
Jayla Reed
Ranita Williams

Pittsford Mendon High School

Devin Miller
Shamyah Starks

Pittsford Sutherland High School

Micah Cook
Timothy Culbreath
Karim Houser
Victoria Griffin
Chyna Stephens

Wheatland-Chili High School

Michael Worth

Student Corner



Virginia Max-Dixon

Virginia is currently in the eighth grade at Oliver Middle School in the Brockport Central School District. As a seventh grader, she was inducted into the Excelsior Society during the school's annual awards ceremony, Night of Excellence. The ceremony, which celebrates the academic and athletic accomplishments of Oliver Middle School's students, was held on June 16, 2016 at the school. Students are eligible for induction into the Excelsior Society if they averaged 90% or above for the first three marking periods of the school year.

Virginia finished the school year strong, maintaining a grade point average of 90. She also received high honor roll.

Congratulations, Virginia on your dedication and hard work. Keep up the good work.

Alumni Highlights



Jael Claudio Brockport High School Class of 2015

Upon graduating from Brockport High School, I decided to attend Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) to pursue a bachelor's degree in software engineering and minors in computer science and computer security. My college experience so far has been amazing. I have met many culturally diverse people and participated in several school events. I am succeeding academically, making the dean's list twice in my freshman year.

A major part of my success is due to the Urban-Suburban Program. This program gave me the opportunity to attend a high school with a better student atmosphere, preparing me for the next step in my life. The program also allowed me to believe in myself. I've come to understand that my skin color and background does not make me any better or less than other students around me. This has contributed to my college success because I come into contact with many other cultures and backgrounds, and I am still able to embrace each one in the same way. The Urban-Suburban Program also provided funds for me as I headed off to college, as a recipient of its Scholarship Fund. This was a blessing for me and it was proof that hard work

truly does pay off. As I entered my freshman year at RIT, I was determined to work hard in the same way I had in high school and succeed.

Ultimately, the program has helped me truly understand the importance of sacrifice. Everyday, I had to wake up at early hours and got home at even later ones. While I sometimes yearned for easier hours, I learned that some things require sacrifice and you have to give up some things in order to receive better ones. Those life lessons have followed me into my freshman year at RIT. There were times when I knew it was wiser to stay in my room and study, rather than go out with my friends. I made good choices and always remembered how sacrifice can make a huge difference.

The Urban- Suburban Program has been a blessing to me as well as my family. I always strive for excellence to bring honor and recognition to everyone that has contributed to this program.



Matthew Cook
Wheatland-Chili High School
Class of 2013

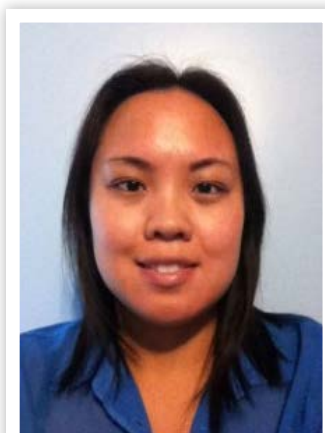
I am a proud graduate of Wheatland-Chili High School, Class of 2013. I entered the Urban-Suburban Program as a first grader at Thomas J. Connor Elementary School. It was here that I was thrown into a world that immediately put me out of my comfort zone, forced me to deal with the adversity of having very few people of color around me, and still having to succeed.

During the next twelve years in the Wheatland-Chili Central School District (WCCSD), educators that would not accept mediocrity or laziness to get in the way of a student's success pushed me. I also created friendships with people that taught me how to truly work with others toward a certain goal. Through these bonds, I was able to see that people should always be treated with respect and dignity, no matter who they are or where they come from. This applied to academics as well as athletics. I learned the value of giving 100% effort no

matter by participating in soccer, basketball, baseball, and track and field. The strong foundation that I received from WCCSD as a result of my participation in the Urban-Suburban Program is one that has catapulted me to lengths at the age of 21 that I did not think were possible until much later in life.

After I graduated from Wheatland-Chili High School, I attended the State University of New York at Geneseo. Again, I was surrounded by professors and educators that refused to allow student development to be stunted by mediocrity and laziness. As I begin the Fall 2016 semester and my Senior year at Geneseo, I have the honor of serving as an elected member of the Village of Geneseo Board of Trustees. I was elected to this position on March 15, 2016, making me the second youngest to ever sit on the board and only the second African-American elected to public office in the 195-year history of Livingston County. Through this position, I have learned the importance of treating everyone you encounter with the same respect and dignity that should be granted to everyone on this earth.

I am proud to be an example to young people of color and demonstrate that if you put in the necessary work, the sky is truly the limit on what you can accomplish. I am forever grateful to the Urban-Suburban Program for allowing me the experiences and learning opportunities that have by far had the largest impact on my life to date. The program has enhanced my life in countless ways and has set me up for success in the personal, academic, and professional realms.



Laura Phonharath
Penfield High School
Class of 2004

After graduating from Penfield High School in 2004, I attended SUNY Geneseo where I completed a degree in sociology and communications. I also received a master's degree in international relations from St. John Fisher College. I have always had a strong desire to give back to my community. Upon earning my master's degree, I worked as a community organizer. In this capacity, I developed neighborhood leaders and promoted community change through people empowerment. I loved what I did and recommend it to anyone interested in pursuing social change from the grassroots level. I eventually transitioned into a more administrative role, managing community grants and deliverables. Since then,

(continued on next page)

I have pursued business consulting, helping develop minority and women small businesses and aiding them in obtaining government contracting. Currently, I am a Public Health Emergency Planner with Monroe County. My next endeavor may be in corporate or finance—who knows, the sky's the limit!

The Urban-Suburban Program changed my life. It not only provided me with an opportunity to receive an exclusive education but allowed me to be immersed in an environment surrounded by those who saw achievable possibilities (with manageable barriers) in their future. This became ingrained in me. It also caused me to realize that I had options; *many* options. I started making plans for my future and developed a sense of professional worth and personal command. I have several more careers moves I intend to make, thanks to my participation in the Urban-Suburban Program. I am grateful for the support I received from teachers, staff, teammates, and friends I had during my time at Penfield High School. I wish future program participants and graduates all the best.

Did You Know?

Brockport

New Brockport High School Principal Appointed

The Brockport Central School District Board of Education is pleased to announce the probationary appointment of Dr. Brian Weller to the role of high school principal, effective July 26. The appointment was approved during the board meeting on July 25. Weller succeeds Dr. Dana Boshnack, who accepted a position as assistant superintendent for teaching and learning at the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District.

Weller has extensive experience in the field of education, most recently serving as the principal of Pittsford Sutherland High School. Prior to that, he spent six years as assistant principal at Webster Thomas High School, one year as curriculum, instruction and assessment specialist for the Webster Central School District and 12 years as a social studies teacher. Weller also served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.



“I am delighted to welcome Dr. Weller to the Brockport Central School District,” said Superintendent Dr. Lesli C. Myers. “He has many notable characteristics including leadership, knowledge and integrity. Further, Dr. Weller has an exceptional track record as both a teacher and administrator. I am certain that his student-centered approach, coupled with his passion for education will help us actualize our vision of being a leading, innovative, high-performing school district that graduates each student prepared for college or a career.”

“I am very excited to be joining the Brockport Central School District as the high school principal,” said Weller. “Everyone I’ve met during the interview process has shown great pride in the school district and community. I’m looking forward to meeting the students, staff and families as soon as possible and continue building on the great traditions here.”

Weller earned his Doctorate of Education from the University of Rochester and his certification and bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the College at Brockport.

Patrick Grow Joins Johanna Perrin Middle School

After spending the past nine years as an assistant principal at Webster Schroeder High School in Webster, Patrick Grow was named Johanna Perrin Middle School principal at the Board of Education workshop, August 1. He began his role on August 22, replacing Kevin Henchen, who is the District's new Director of Staff Development.

Grow has spent the past 16 years in education, in the roles of both teacher and athletic director at Bishop Kearney High School prior to working at Webster CSD.

A graduate of St. John Fisher College, he holds a Master of Science in Education; and a Bachelor of Arts in History/Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh.



As the new school year begins, Grow said he is looking forward to getting to know students, staff and parents. He said that being a part of students' educational journey and working with teachers on new and creative ways to help the students be successful are some of the most rewarding aspects of being a building administrator.

"I'm so excited to be a part of the Fairport family and I can't wait to get started!" said Grow. "We will work very hard to make sure our students have a wonderful experience at Johanna Perrin, and have them ready for all the challenges that are waiting for them in high school and beyond."

Grow and his wife, Mary, who also works in education, live with their two dogs in Ontario.

Meredith Klus Named Principal at Brooks Hill

Having served as assistant principal for the past four years, Meredith Klus was appointed the new principal of Brooks Hill Elementary School, August 2. Klus replaces Stephen Kenny, who resigned from the position in June.

Klus has spent the majority of her career at Brooks Hill. Prior to becoming assistant principal she was the school's lead teacher for two years, and previously a classroom teacher in grades 3 and 4 for eight years. She also has experience as the BOCES 1 Summer School principal for grades 7-12, in which she spent four years in the role alongside teaching at Brooks Hill.



Klus said she is looking forward to maintaining and enhancing the school and community culture in her new role as principal. Additionally, new for the upcoming school year is the roll out of the new playground that was completed at the end of July.

"The relationships with our students and families are so important," she said. "I'm looking to build upon these relationships and continue to find ways to connect with students to make their school year positive."

Klus holds a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from The College at Brockport. Additionally, she has a Master of Science in Education (Arts for Children Program) from The College at Brockport, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from SUNY Geneseo.

Klus lives in Fairport with her husband and two children.

Hilton CSD Appoints New Assistant Principal at Village Elementary School

The Hilton Central School District has appointed Stephanie Schaufelberger as assistant principal at Village Elementary School. She replaces Brian Lumb who accepted a principal position in another district.

For the past three years, Schaufelberger was an assistant principal at Burning Tree Elementary School in Bethesda, MD. Prior to that, she taught fourth grade and special education in Maryland's Montgomery County Public Schools. Her education includes a bachelor's degree in childhood education and a master's degree in special education, both from The College at Brockport. She received her Administration and Supervision Certificate from Johns Hopkins University.



Schaufelberger was raised in Fairport and now lives in the City of Rochester. "I am very excited to be a part of an effective district that places the growth mindset and the International Baccalaureate Programme as priorities in order to support student achievement and community building," she said. Schaufelberger began her new position on July 11.

Penfield

Kenny Named Cobbles Principal

The Penfield Central School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Stephen J. Kenny as the new principal of Cobbles Elementary School. Dr. Kenny comes to Penfield from the Fairport Central School District, where he has served as principal of Brooks Hill Elementary School for the past six years.

"We are very excited to welcome Dr. Kenny to our District," said Superintendent Thomas Putnam. "He brings outstanding leadership, instructional expertise and an understanding of the importance of developing the whole student to our program," Dr. Putnam added.



Prior to his tenure as principal, Dr. Kenny served as an assistant principal in the Pittsford and Gates Chili school districts, and also taught in the Gates Chili, Canandaigua and Dexter (MA) school districts. He holds a doctorate in education from the University of Rochester, a master's degree in education from Simmons College, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Hobart College.

"I am honored to be the next principal of Cobbles Elementary School," Dr. Kenny said. "I look forward to contributing to and building upon the positive culture that is present in Cobbles and the Penfield Schools. I am excited to get to know each and every one of the staff, students and members of the parent community," he added.

(continued on next page)

Dr. Kenny started his position on July 1, 2016. He replaced former principal Donald Bavis, who left the District in January to become Superintendent of the Marion Central School District. Nancy Grouse has been serving as interim principal since that time, while the search for a new principal was conducted.

Stutz Named Bay Trail Assistant Principal

The Penfield Board of Education has appointed Erica Stutz as the new House C Principal at Bay Trail Middle School. She comes to Penfield from the Noble Academy in Ohio, where she served as a middle school science teacher. She previously served as a science teacher and science department head in the Greece Central School District for 13 years.

Stutz holds master's degrees in Educational Leadership and in Math, Science & Technology Education from St. John Fisher College and a bachelor's degree in Secondary Science Education from The Pennsylvania State University. She started her position in Penfield on July 1st.



Ware Named Indian Landing Principal

The Penfield Central School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Marcie Ware as the new principal of Indian Landing Elementary School. Mrs. Ware comes to Penfield from the Canandaigua City School District, where she has served as an elementary principal for the past three years.

“Mrs. Ware is a strong advocate for building positive partnerships with families, staff, and students,” said Superintendent Thomas Putnam. “Her career has focused on supporting the whole student and we look forward to having her join our administrative team,” he added.

Mrs. Ware previously served as an elementary principal and assistant principal in the Penn Yan School District, as well as an assistant principal in Connecticut. She also taught in the Marcus Whitman and Clinton, CT school districts. She holds her certification in Educational Leadership from Central Connecticut State University, a master's degree in Elementary Education from Sacred Heart University, and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Connecticut.

“I am thrilled to be joining the Indian Landing family and I look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence that is evident not only at Indian Landing Elementary School, but within the entire Penfield district,” Mrs. Ware said. “I am very excited to get to know the students, staff and families of Indian Landing,” she added.

Mrs. Ware started her position on Aug. 1st. She replaced principal Terri Bavis, who was appointed as the new Superintendent of the Waterloo Central School District.



SCSD Names David Caiazza Bernabi Principal

The Spencerport Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of David Caiazza as principal of Bernabi Elementary School. He started on Aug. 1, following the retirement of Andrea Campo.

David Caiazza, whose career in education began in Spencerport in 2003, was selected from a strong pool of candidates and a field of three outstanding finalists. Bernabi staff and parents served on the interview committee and provided invaluable input into the selection.

Superintendent of Schools Mike Crumb said that Caiazza brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, leadership, and enthusiasm.

“David has always put students first, and approaches every decision on what is best for them,” Crumb said. “His vast experience at the elementary level will serve the Bernabi learning community well and his enthusiasm and team focus will provide a smooth transition in continuing to build on student successes and achievements.”

For the past five years, Caiazza has served as part of the leadership team at Cosgrove Middle School as dean of students (2011-12) and assistant principal (2012-present). Prior to 2011, Caiazza taught fourth and fifth grades at Taylor Elementary School for eight years.

Of his appointment, Caiazza said, “The opportunity to join the Bernabi learning community is a dream-come-true! Having visited and worked with people in the building many times during my 13 years in the district, I have always been impressed with how talented the faculty is, how involved parents are and above all, how welcoming the students have been. Bernabi Elementary is an incredible place and I feel honored to be its next principal!”

Caiazza earned his Bachelor of Science degree in elementary and special education from Keuka College, and his Master of Science in education from SUNY Brockport. In 2010, he obtained his certificate of advanced study in educational administration, also from SUNY Brockport.



Spencerport CSD Names Cosgrove Assistant Principal

The Spencerport Board of Education has appointed James (Jim) Centola as the new assistant principal at Cosgrove Middle School, effective Aug. 1.

“We are pleased to welcome Mr. Centola to Cosgrove,” Superintendent Mike Crumb said. “His instructional background and firsthand leadership experience will be a great addition to our Cosgrove team. His proven success and student-centered approach will certainly ensure a smooth transition and continue to help us build on our overall academic success.”

Centola filled the open position left by David Caiazza, who was named the Bernabi Elementary principal in June. Centola first joined the Spencerport School District faculty in 2006, as a health teacher (2006-present). During this time, he has also served in numerous leadership positions, including enrichment specialist (2008-2010), K-12 Health and Physical Education Teacher Leader (2013-present), and assistant principal (2012) then principal (2014 to present) of the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES regional summer school.

Centola earned all of his advanced degrees and certification from SUNY Brockport, with a bachelor of science degree in physical education and health, master’s degree in physical education, and an educational administration certificate.



Webster CSD Names Bodensteiner Principal

Craig Bodensteiner accepted the position as the new principal of Plank Road North Elementary School, effective July 1, 2016, pending Webster Board of Education approval. Mr. Bodensteiner was the assistant principal at State Road Elementary School and replaced former Plank Road North Elementary School Principal David Peter, who retired at the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Bodensteiner served as assistant principal at State Road since August 2013. Prior to his work with State Road, Mr. Bodensteiner had 17 years of experience in the Spencerport School District as a fifth and sixth grade teacher (1996-2013). Before beginning his teaching career, he served during the first Gulf War as a proud member of the United States Marine Corps.



Mr. Bodensteiner credits his love of baseball with helping to shape the person he is today. He played college baseball at SUNY Oneonta, and shared his knowledge of the game with Spencerport High School students as the varsity baseball coach from 2005-2013. Mr. Bodensteiner lives in Spencerport with his wife, Caroline, who is a first grade teacher in the Spencerport School District, and his three sons, Brett, Andrew, and Matthew. He is also the official scorer for the Rochester Red Wings and used to be the Red Wings' bullpen catcher.

"I consider it both an honor and privilege to join the Plank North family and am eagerly anticipating leading such an energetic, vibrant group of students, faculty, and staff," said Mr. Bodensteiner.

A graduate of SUNY Oneonta, Mr. Bodensteiner went on to earn his Master's Degree in Administration and his Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from SUNY Brockport. Webster CSD is fortunate to welcome Mr. Bodensteiner in his new role as principal of Plank North.

West Irondequoit

Mrs. Michelle Cramer to Lead Dake Jr. High School

Michelle Cramer was appointed principal of Dake Junior High School in West Irondequoit, effective July 1, 2016. Mrs. Cramer was principal of Brookview and Seneca Schools for eight years. Previous positions include Assistant Principal of Victor Primary School and elementary school teacher in West Irondequoit. She has served as adjunct professor at Nazareth College in both graduate and undergraduate programs. Mrs. Cramer taught sixth grade and was a grade 6-8 reading specialist in the Palmyra-Macedon School district for eight years.

Mrs. Cramer holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from SUNY College at Buffalo, and a Master of Science in Reading Education K-12 from Nazareth College. She earned her Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from SUNY Oswego.



She has been a member of West Irondequoit's District Curriculum Council and the Professional Development Committee. Most recently, Mrs. Cramer used her broad curriculum background and leadership capability to lead district planning for the implementation of full-day kindergarten. She has been a presenter at the National Middle School Association annual conference and led several committees and curriculum development at the 6-8 level.

Mrs. Cramer filled the role vacated by Matt Schrage who took a position in the Canandaigua City School District.

Did You Know?

Principal Appointed to Brookview and Seneca Schools

West Irondequoit Central School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Alicia Spitz to the position of Principal, Brookview and Seneca Schools, effective July 1, 2016.

Mrs. Spitz taught Grade 5 English Language Arts in West Irondequoit for ten years, including five years as Core Contact Teacher. In 2013 she was appointed Social Studies Supervisor.

Mrs. Spitz earned a Bachelor of Science from SUNY Brockport, a Master of Science in Education, Inclusive Education from Nazareth College and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from SUNY Oswego. Professional certifications include Pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grades 1-6, Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6), School District Leader and School Building Leader.

She has served as a contributing member of the ELA Ad Hoc, the Social Studies Curriculum Review process, District Curriculum Council, Professional Development Planning Committee, District School Based Planning Liaison Committee and the Iroquois School Based Planning Team.

In her most recent role, Mrs. Spitz has supervised teachers to support research based instructional practices, delivered professional development and partnered with principals on the implementation of social studies curriculum. Her belief in collaboration and her experience as both a classroom teacher and a district leader will be solid assets in her role as principal.

Mrs. Spitz replaced Michelle Cramer who accepted the position of Principal, Dake Junior High School.



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