

February 2020

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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,

As we embark on the Winter Season, we are wishing wellness for all families.

Some familiar tips for staying well include:

- Get plenty of rest
(It is recommended youth get 8 ½ to 9 hours of sleep at night)
- Be healthy
(Eat well, frequent hand washing and use of sanitizers)
- Stay active and Involved at school and in the community
- Dress for the weather
- Reduce Stress
(Do not procrastinate, worry less)
- Engage in fulfilling and joyful activities

Parents, let's also stay vigilant with our student's academic wellness by:

- Having daily discussions with students about their school day.
Encourage students to ask for help early (teacher, parent, staff or peer).
- Signing up for parent portal, teacher emails and maintaining open communication with school and program.
- Attending parent teacher conferences and requesting meetings to address any concerns.
- Ensuring student attends school every day and on time.
- Supporting student events and activities.

Your wellness and partnership are important! Don't hesitate to contact us at 249-7045 with any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Be well!

Sincerely,

Felicia A. Smith
Program Director



Parent Group Meetings for the Remainder of the 2019-2020 School Year

ONLY 2 MEETINGS LEFT!

- **Bridging the Gap: Transitions**

Thursday, February 27, 2020

7–8:30 p.m.

East Rochester Jr/Sr High School, 200 Woodbine Ave., East Rochester, NY 14445

- **School Safety**

Thursday, March 26, 2020

7–8:30 p.m.

East High School, 1801 E. Main St., Rochester, NY 14609

For more information, please visit our [Parent Group Meetings webpage](#).

Senior Checklist

- ☐ **U-S Scholarship Application**



This will be available from Monday, February 17, 2020 until **NOON on Thursday, April 9, 2020.**

NO EXTENSIONS! Please plan accordingly and work with your guidance counselor to submit your scholarship application on time.

- ☐ **Submit Senior Pictures**

Each year, seniors are recognized at our Annual Awards Ceremony and in the July edition of the newsletter. Office staff will begin contacting seniors and yearbook staff at their respective schools in February in an effort to collect senior pictures and plans upon graduation. You can be proactive and send an electronic copy of your senior picture to TaShonda Jefferson at Tashonda_Jefferson@boces.monroe.edu.

Deadline for submitting this information is **May 1, 2020. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

- ☐ **Save the Date: May 28, 2020, U-S Award Ceremony**

The class of 2020 is Urban-Suburban's largest graduation class to date. The senior processional is a highly anticipated portion of our awards ceremony. Not only are seniors honored via a slideshow, but they have the opportunity to rep their current school and their plans after high school. If you plan to be a part of this monumental part of the program, please begin preparing now. The program begins promptly at 6 p.m. sharp, and seniors are required to be at the facility by **5:30 p.m.** so that we can distribute stoles and give instructions for the evening. Due to the large number of seniors, we may plan a walk through prior to the ceremony. Stay tuned for further information.

Urban League of Rochester Annual Salute to Black Scholars

Early Recognition Program

The Urban League of Rochester's 35th Annual Early Recognition Program was held on Saturday, November 23, at Rochester Institute of Technology. The Early Recognition Program is a component of the Black Scholars Program where honorees must continue to meet the necessary requirements in order to be eligible, as graduating seniors, for recognition as Urban League Black Scholars. As sophomores, students must achieve an unweighted 9th grade cumulative GPA of "C+" (2.75) or better; juniors must achieve an unweighted cumulative GPA of a "B-" (2.85) or better for four semesters (9th and 10th grade) and seniors must achieve an unweighted cumulative GPA of "B" (3.00) or better for seven semesters (9th, 10th, and 11th grade and first semester of 12th grade). Only grades earned in science, English, math, history and foreign languages are computed. Congratulations, and continue to strive for academic excellence!

Brighton High School

Damitriana Alexander
Yousra Ghassat
Myzalia Henry
Kamaria Shepard
Faith Stanley
Bri'Anna Taggart
Kayla Wilder

Brockport High School

Jayden Asbie
Rodric Cox-Cooper
Bryant Cromartie
Jonathan Ellison
Virginia Max-Dixon
Keyana Sutton
Kayla Wilson

Eastridge High School

Rae Diamond
Jade Goff-Barton
London Simmons
Ameera Spencer
Satori Spencer
Anajee Williams

East Rochester Jr/Sr High School

Belahna Hanna
Janai McCullough
Marie Mekoyo-Bakou
Jalen Patterson
Zachariah Singletary

Fairport High School

Mahogane Bailey
Najadah Brooks
Embola-Mukete Ekiller
Jarmel Glass
Anaiya Griffin
Ashton Hall
Amani McIntyre
Jessica Noble
Janiyah Powell
Nimisha Reed
Tiana Rice
Sarai Skerritt
Fredrianna Williams
Tori Wilson

Penfield High School

Joshua Banda
Courtney Felton
Hamid Jalloh
Brianna Jones
Yaa Kornne
Jai'Sean Miller
Sandra Perkins
Jemeah Scott
Nyara Simmons
Troyrod Smith
Brianna Williams
Ja'Vyon Winston

Pittsford Mendon High School

Samari Brown
Monique Holt
Blessed Kusi
Janai Marshall
Britten McKenzie-Baker
Evan Nesmith

Pittsford Sutherland High School

Lluvia Ayala-Pound
Marquise Bennett
Brielle Clark
Raven Drummond
Amariah James
Lance Marriott
Tre Reese
Lanasia Reid
Kennedy Sayres
Chase Ward
Jaylen Wims

Spencerport High School

Athena Chance
Jocelyn Colon
Jhavanie Napier
Persia Thompson

Irondequoit High School

Journey Barcelona
Bri'Asia Brown
Nevaeh Brumfield
Sky Brumfield
Drianna Butler
Michelle Cox
Amiah Harris
JaiAsia Jackson
Destiny Johnson-Hopkins
Imelda Kirui
Jashawna Luke
A'miyah Nunn
JaKayla Reed
Sh'Neil Reid
Alexis Reyes
Julia Smith

Wheatland-Chili High School

Acacia Adams
Justice Johnson
Shayla Moore
Olivia Youmans
Aaryana Young

Back-to-School Events

During September and October, some of our participating schools held Back-to-School events for their Urban-Suburban students. These events kicked off the beginning of the school year and allowed the students across grade levels to interact with one another, school personnel, and Urban-Suburban staff.



Student Corner

Zechaiah Singletary

East Rochester Jr/Sr High School
11th Grade

On December 4, 2019, Zechaiah was one of 18 students at East Rochester High School to be inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. National Honor Society is an organization to honor students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Students received their official membership certificate at the ceremony.

“Zechaiah exemplifies the four pillars of NHS. Not only does she hold herself accountable to high academic and character standards, but she has shown her leadership and volunteerism in her active role as one of our diversity ambassadors.”

~Casey van Harsse



Alumni Spotlight

Samantha Colson

Brockport High School

Samantha Colson began the Urban-Suburban Program in her sophomore year at Brockport High School. Growing up on Long Island, she lived and attended school in a community with predominantly people of color. The transition to Brockport High School was challenging to say the least. As a teenager, it was hard for her to adjust to her new environment while maintaining an interest in her education. It was through the encouragement of her School Counselor and School Social Worker that she graduated on time.

Since Samantha struggled academically in high school, she was not sure if college would be a good fit. She enrolled in Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) as a way to measure her college readiness. She became passionate about learning and felt empowered to continue to her educational journey. Over the years, Samantha has earned an associate degree in liberal arts from FLCC, a bachelor's in psychology and sociology from SUNY Brockport and a master's in Social Work and Strategic Leadership from Roberts Wesleyan College.

Samantha's education and career have focused on mental health, crisis response, leadership, suicide prevention and planning. In July 2019, Samantha started her own business. Colson Training & Consulting focuses on promoting positive mental health and wellness across the lifespan. Samantha believes that having an understanding of mental health early in life is key to preventing and treating mental health problems as they emerge. As a consultant, Samantha has collaborated with NAMI Rochester, Monroe County Office of Mental Health, JED Foundation and several schools, community and state entities. She is also a Master Trainer for the Mental Health Literacy Curriculum and Suicide Safety in Schools.

Samantha resides in Rochester with her family. She enjoys spending time traveling with her husband Daniel and four sons, Nile, Zinan, Kenzo and Kingston. When she is home she loves relaxing with her dog Bruno Mars and cat Indiana Jones.

Samantha is thankful to Urban-Suburban for accepting her into the program as a high school sophomore. She appreciates U-S for shining a light on racial isolation and its impact on school communities. Samantha credits U-S for providing a platform that exposed her to different races, ethnicities and physical environments in addition to overcoming adversity.



District Updates

Brighton

Interim Assistant Director of Humanities and Interim French Road Elementary School Assistant Principal Announced

Brighton Central School District Superintendent Dr. Kevin McGowan has announced the selection of Deanna Spagnola as the interim Assistant Director of Humanities and Caitlin O'Neill as the interim French Road Elementary School Assistant Principal for this school year.

Spagnola has served as the French Road Elementary School Assistant Principal since the 2013-14 school year.

"Deanna is a thoughtful leader dedicated to acting on behalf of the students," Dr. McGowan said. "This dedication has been evidenced in her supervisory work of the special education and intervention staff at French Road, along with a myriad of classroom teachers. Whether she is dealing with parents, teachers, or students, her level-headedness and acute understanding of the nature of teaching, learning, and child development has resulted in decisions and actions that are well thought out and executed on behalf of the students. We appreciate Deanna's excellent work at FRES and willingness to share her talents in this new role."

The Assistant Director for Humanities oversees Brighton's K-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and social studies programs, as well as the 6-12 world language program. The position also supports the reading Academic Intervention and Support Services (AIS) and Response to Intervention (RtI) practices across grades K-8 and coordinates the elementary summer school program.

Before coming to Brighton, Spagnola served as the Coordinator of Special Education for the Greece Central School District after many years teaching at the elementary level. She received a B.S. in elementary and special education as well as American studies from Boston College. Spagnola earned her M.S. in reading from Nazareth College and her administrative certification from Canisius College.

O'Neill started teaching special education at Twelve Corners Middle School in 2017.

"Caitlin has a wide variety of experiences in the special education area and in working with students who present a variety of behavioral and academic needs," Dr. McGowan said. "Her demonstrated excellence in these areas and preparation as an administrative intern right here in Brighton are among the many qualifications that make Caitlin such a good fit for the position at FRES."

Before coming to Brighton, O'Neill taught middle school special education in Brockport and East Irondequoit schools. She received a B.A. in elementary education and sociology and M.S. in special education from LeMoyne College. O'Neill earned her administrative certification through the College at Brockport.

These are interim appointments for the 2019-20 school year as the District reviews the budgetary impact and its administrative structure.



Deanna Spagnola



Caitlin O'Neill

Brockport

BCSD Superintendent appointed Assistant Commissioner with NYS Education Department

Brockport Central School District's Superintendent, Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small, was appointed Assistant Commissioner of School Reform and Innovation with the New York State Education Department. Dr. Myers-Small's last day with BCSD was tentatively January 6, 2020.

As Assistant Commissioner, Dr. Myers-Small will lead, manage and oversee the NYS Office of School Reform and Innovation. She will assist in providing a comprehensive system of support for school innovation and the turnaround of low-achieving schools across the state.

"While I am very excited about this opportunity, I will greatly miss the Brockport Central School District, my colleagues, staff and students," stated Dr. Myers-Small.

Dr. Myers-Small has served as Brockport's superintendent for over seven years. During her time with the district, she secured and provided oversight for the \$400,000 Strengthening Teacher and Leadership Effectiveness Grant; implemented school and district strategic plans with measurable outcomes; and strengthened partnerships with The College at Brockport including implementing a Diversity Certification Program.

BCSD Board of Education President, Terry Ann Carbone, stated, "this is a bittersweet announcement to make, as Dr. Myers-Small has been instrumental in shaping the quality of education we provide in Brockport. While she will be missed, the Board supports her new endeavor, and we know she will have a positive impact on school districts across the state."

Brockport's Board of Education will move forward to name an interim superintendent and will initiate a search for a permanent replacement.



BHS student named Spectrum's Athlete of the Week

Whether you call him John, Johnny, or Captain, Jonathan Ellison now has a new name to add to the list: Scholar Athlete of the Week.

Ellison is a senior runningback and linebacker for the Brockport Blue Devils, he's also the captain of the team. During the homecoming game, he was awarded Spectrum News Scholar Athlete of the Week, presented to him by the Village of Brockport Mayor. He was also joined on the field by his proud parents, as the celebration was broadcast live on Spectrum News.

In the nomination, Head Football Coach Scott Nugent called Johnny



Photo source: Spectrum News

(continued on next page)

‘one of the hardest working kids on our team.’ Going on to say ‘he is at every summer lifting session and every camp that we do.’ Coach Nugent explained what makes that feat so extraordinary is the fact that the senior has to travel in from the city every day as an Urban-Suburban student.

“Johnny and his family have shown this dedication since his freshman year. This work ethic carries over to the classroom. He holds over a 90 average in school,” stated Coach. His work doesn’t stop on the football field. In addition to being a top student and playing as a starter, he also plays trombone in band and is a member of the track and field team.

The Spectrum News Scholar Athlete Program provides a one-time \$1,000 scholarship and is designed to honor, highlight and celebrate the best scholar athletes in our local public and private high schools. Ellison is one of 32 athletes recognized in Upstate NY this season.

*"His tremendous work ethic, character and leadership are reasons why he was elected captain by his teammates."
-Coach Nugent*

Pittsford

Board of Education Honors Pittsford Pride Recipients

Nine PCSD students received the Pittsford Pride Citizenship Recognition Award at the November 4, 2019, Board of Education Meeting. These students were selected by their schools for demonstrating excellent citizenship and positive leadership. Students are chosen for this award three times a year. Two of the nine are in the Urban-Suburban program.

The November 2019 honorees include:

- Ethan Bingeman, grade 8, Barker Road Middle School
- **Samari Brown, grade 12, Mendon High School, *Urban-Suburban Program**
- **Brielle Burgess, grade 11, Sutherland High School, *Urban-Suburban Program**
- William Colburn, grade 5, Mendon Center Elementary School
- Gracie Downing, grade 5, Thornell Road Elementary School
- Sophie Karpovich, grade 7, Calkins Road Middle School
- Brianna Nolan, grade 4, Jefferson Road Elementary School
- Aine Roe, grade 5, Allen Creek Elementary School
- Abdullah Quwatli, grade 5, Park Road Elementary School



Samari Brown



Brielle Burgess

For more information about Pittsford Pride, visit the District website at www.pittsfordschools.org. To watch the video from the November 4 ceremony, please visit the Pittsford Central School District YouTube channel.

Save the Date!

Kicks for Campers

May 9, 2020

More details coming soon!

Spencerport

New principal of Spencerport's Canal View Elementary School appointed

The Spencerport Central School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Denise Lemcke as principal of Canal View Elementary School, effective Jan. 6, 2020.

Lemcke, whose career in education began in 2003, currently serves as assistant principal for Klem Road North Elementary School in Webster. She previously taught at the elementary level for the Guilderland and Victor Central School Districts, then spent 11 years in the Penfield Central School District, as a classroom teacher and K-6 humanities teacher on special assignment. In her position in Webster, Lemcke provided building and managerial leadership, and proactively sought communication among all stakeholders.



"We are very pleased to welcome Ms. Lemcke as our new Canal View Principal," Superintendent Dan Milgate said. "She brings proven leadership, instructional expertise, and an engaging approach with students, staff and school community."

Her appointment culminates a search process which included invaluable input from staff and families through principal surveys and interviews by a committee made up of parents, faculty, staff, administrators and board members.

"I am excited for the opportunity to join the Canal View community," Lemcke said. "In a short period of time, I have been so impressed with the school and I am looking forward to learning and collaborating with students, staff, faculty and parents."

Lemcke earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in education from SUNY College at Geneseo. She also obtained her certificate of advanced study in educational administration from the University of Rochester.

Digital Report Cards are coming

Spencerport Central School District is working toward the implementation of digital report cards. This change offers an opportunity for parents/guardians to receive their students' report cards quickly, in a more cost-effective and eco-friendly way. Full implementation will begin with the second marking period, and our families should have received an IC backpack information sheet with your children's paper report card from the first marking period. The info sheet provides an important one-time access code you will need to access your IC backpack account. This will be our new approach to ensuring you have had the chance to review your children's report cards.

To further support this new process, this [Quick Tutorial](#) provides step-by-step directions on both viewing and acknowledging your children's report cards.

Thank you for your support!

Webster

F.I.R.E. Announces Meetings for Remainder of the 2019-20 School Year

Families Igniting Racial Equity (F.I.R.E.) began last spring with the goal to spread racial equity throughout our One Webster community. They look forward to continuing the great work that they have undertaken and welcome others to join!

Their meeting schedule for the remainder of the school year will be:

- Monday, March 2
- Monday, March 30
- Monday, May 4
- Monday, June 15

Save the dates! Locations and times to be announced. For further information about F.I.R.E., please email wcsdequity@webstercsd.org.

Construction Updates

Construction around the district has been in full swing for the capital project approved by voters in 2016. Work on the new Spry Middle School cafetorium has progressed into the inside phase as the outside walls have gone up. Once the cafetorium is complete (Summer 2020), construction for the new library (old cafeteria) can begin with an expected opening in September 2020.

At Webster Thomas High School, work on the library is progressing with internal renovations and an anticipated opening of September of 2020. Final touches are being completed on elementary schools that had boiler work, bathroom renovations, and other repairs.

More construction is scheduled this spring and summer as the state has recently approved the first phase of the 2018 capital project vote.



An aerial photo of construction on the Spry Middle School campus taken October 13.
Image courtesy of Robert Schlegel.



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

A program of

