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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 and Happy Fall!

Welcome back to school and Monroe One BOCES Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program. We are celebrating a milestone this spring! The Urban-Suburban Program turns 60! That is 60 years of dedication to our mission "to voluntarily decrease racial isolation, deconcentrate poverty, and enhance opportunities for students in the Rochester City School District and the suburban districts of the greater Rochester area."

We invite you to join the celebration! For 60th updates, stay connected to us at monroe.edu/us and [Urban-Suburban Program on Facebook!](#)

Alums and current program families have extraordinary journeys accessing educational opportunities for their families. We thank you for staying the course. Your resiliency, advocacy, and dedication fortify the program and enrich our communities. The parent, school, and program partnerships sustain the organization and continue to lift it to new heights.

In this newsletter edition, we are excited to share our summer Parent Advisory Council BBQ, welcome new families, highlight back-to-school events, share parent group meeting information, introduce the Urban-Suburban team and much more!

I appreciate your commitment to standing the test of time with Urban-Suburban. We look forward to an exceptional year with you!

Felicia A. Smith
Program Director



Urban Suburban

(585) 249-7045

2024–2025 Parent Group Meetings

10.9

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Open House, 7–8:30 p.m.
at East Rochester Jr./Sr. High School,
200 Woodbine Ave., East Rochester, NY 14445

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Social Media
5–6:30 p.m.

10.22

11.14

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Bullying
12–1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mental Health
7–8:30 p.m.

12.11

1.15

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Trade Schools/Post Graduate Options
5–6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 13, 2025

First Time Homebuyers
12–1:30 p.m.

2.13

3.11

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Drug Prevention
7–8:30 p.m.

About Parent Meetings

- ▶ Parent Meetings are virtual via Zoom, and will be held at 12 noon, 5 pm, and 7 pm. **Open House is this year's only in-person meeting.**
- ▶ These are the dates for UrbanSuburban Parent Meetings; however there may be conditions beyond our control that occur during the school year that may cause changes.
- ▶ Parents are required to attend a minimum of **2 meetings per year**. If you do not fulfill your meeting requirement, you will be referred to the Superintendent of your district.
- ▶ For current program information and to register for Parent meetings, please visit our website at www.monroe.edu/US or call us at 249-7045 for assistance.

Other Important Dates

- ▶ **Monday, October 21, 2024**
Urban-Suburban application opens for families
- ▶ **Monday, February 24, 2025**
Urban-Suburban Scholarship opens to graduating students

Urban-Suburban Class of 2025 Checklist

- ✓ All senior photos are due by December 19. Please email photos and post-graduation plans to Felicia_Smith@boces.monroe.edu.
- ✓ Graduating students can purchase stoles on the Urban-Suburban website (monroe.edu/USstore).
- ✓ Graduating students that are going to an accredited college/program can apply for the Urban-Suburban Scholarship. The application window opens **February 24, 2025**.

*If you are an **early graduate**, please notify the Urban-Suburban Office (585-249-7045).

A message from the Urban-Suburban Parent Advisory Council

Welcome back to school, Urban-Suburban families!

We are excited to have you all here, both returning and new families. This is going to be an exciting year.

As we begin the year together, we want to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to you for deciding to take this journey with us.

We also want to thank our Suburban Districts for their responsiveness in providing transportation at the start of this school year.

As parents/guardians we are our children's biggest advocates. We encourage and welcome your advocacy! To ensure our children have a wonderful school experience, it is important that we stay connected and get involved where we can.

Stay connected

- Ask your child how their day was.
- Encourage your child to get involved in school activities, sports, or clubs.
- Have open communication with your child's teachers.
- Check your emails regularly for updates from school and the Urban-Suburban program.
- Familiarize yourself with your district/school's website.

Get involved

- Attend school and Urban-Suburban events.
- Join your school's parent teacher association.
- Join the Urban-Suburban parent advisory council (PAC) and/or the scholarship committee.

These, of course, are just a few suggestions. If you would like more ideas or if you would like to share ideas, please contact your PAC representative at USpacTeam@gmail.com or Urban-Suburban Director Felicia Smith at Felicia_Smith@boces.monroe.edu. I know together we are going to make this an amazing school year!

Sincerely,

Janice Kpor and Karen Bloss, PAC Co-Chairs



Janice Kpor
PAC Co-Chair



Karen Bloss
PAC Co-Chair

Back to School BBQ

Thank you to our Parent Advisory Council members: Karen Bloss, Arielle Copeland, Nikki & Frankie Gissendanner, Nkechi Obieke, Caroline McClendon, Whitley Fling, Latoshi Clark, Joyce Akwaa, and Shetara Bigham. We appreciate all the incredible Urban-Suburban families who attended, volunteered, and helped make this year's Back to School BBQ unforgettable.

A special thank you to Nateisha and Spurgeon Bowen for capturing these beautiful photos, and to Urban-Suburban Pittsford alumnus Kelvin Knight! It was the perfect way to get together before the school year started, and a great opportunity to form lasting connections.





Welcome back to school!

Districts are dedicating time to welcome Urban-Suburban students with orientations for newcomers and events like ice cream, breakfast, and pizza parties for everyone. It's wonderful to see students feel comfortable and supported in their school communities.







Alumni Spotlight

Maxine Bostick

Urban-Suburban alumna Maxine Bostick is a hardworking, resilient, social butterfly. In 2025, she will celebrate ten years since graduating from Fairport High School, a milestone that coincides with the 60th anniversary of the Urban-Suburban program. Maxine has vivid memories of her senior year during the program's 50th anniversary, a time filled with events and opportunities she says played a big role in her personal growth. She got involved and stayed involved.

Maxine will tell you it was her mom who lovingly pushed her into school engagements early on. She started the Urban-Suburban program in third grade after her school in the Rochester City School District closed. Switching schools meant stepping all the way out of her comfort zone. Maxine didn't see her family at school anymore, she was farther from home, and learning in a different community.

"I will never forget my third-grade teacher. She was welcoming and understanding, and that definitely made me feel a part of the school," said Maxine. "In elementary school, my mom kind of forced me to be part of the culture because she wanted me to enjoy the experience. So elementary was a lot of my mom signing me up for programs and making me go."

By the time Maxine was a senior, it was a different story. "There wasn't anything you could keep me and my friends from. We were at the sporting events, we were in yearbook club, we put on an Urban-Suburban forum to educate everyone for Black History Month, we were constantly talking to the administrators."

So, what changed? A lot. Maxine lost her mom unexpectedly before her junior year of high school. Maybe it was her mom's voice in her head, her best friend since fifth grade, her family, her Fairport family, her own strength, or a combination of these factors—but Maxine rose through tragedy.

"My junior and my senior year I definitely had teachers who were kind of like my parents at school," said Maxine. Then there was the sentry she considered one of the pillars of her support system. "He was just a truly amazing individual. He was really part of the reason why we became involved." Her group of friends participated in countless Urban-Suburban events and opportunities through Fairport High School. That's why getting involved is her number one piece of advice for students in the Urban-Suburban program.



"I know that we had long bus rides. I know getting involved makes our day long. Me and my friends, we were literally at school for 16 hours. There might be things back home that we think we're missing, but I think if you really truly want to enjoy the program, you have to become a part of the culture at your school," Maxine urged.

She also acknowledges the bittersweet reality of the program. "I think Urban-Suburban gave me a different

perspective on the world at a young age. I think racism is still real in our world and being someone from the city, I do experience some type of, I don't want to say discrimination, but you're judged in some type of capacity by at least one person," explained Maxine. "I think [Urban-Suburban] teaches you how to interact with different people early in life."

After high school, Maxine went to college. She started working at the ARC of Monroe and quickly fell in love with it. The ARC was one of the reasons that she changed her major and started working toward becoming a lawyer instead of a neurosurgeon. She also credits a teacher at Fairport High School who saw her as a lawyer before she even entertained the thought.

"I definitely want to do family [law], I would like to do criminal, but there's a part of me that thinks I'm going to end up helping people with disabilities as a lawyer," said Maxine.

And she plans to stay involved with Urban-Suburban. In August, Maxine spoke at Fairport's New Family Orientation for Urban-Suburban. She has a cousin who recently graduated from Fairport High School, and a nephew who just started his journey at Martha Brown Middle School.

"I try to stay involved especially because I think it's important to give back to the next generation," said Maxine. "I want to make someone else's journey just a little bit easier."

Meet Your Urban-Suburban Team



Felicia A. Smith
Program Director
585-249-7046



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Education Specialist
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Supporting: Brighton, East Rochester,
Honeoye Falls-Lima, Webster, West Irondequoit



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Education Specialist
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Supporting: Hilton, Penfield, Pittsford, Spencerport

District News

Stay informed with the latest updates from our component districts! Click on the links below to access the news sections for each district and keep up with what's happening in our schools.

- **Brighton**
website: www.bcsd.org
[Brighton - District Newsletters](#)
- **Brockport**
website: www.brockport.k12.ny.us
[Brockport News](#)
- **East Irondequoit**
website: www.eastiron.org
news: eastiron.org/news
- **East Rochester**
website: www.erschools.org
[ER - What's New](#)
- **Fairport**
website: www.fairport.org
[Fairport News](#)
- **Hilton**
website: www.hilton.k12.ny.us
news: hilton.k12.ny.us/news
- **HF-L**
website: www.hflcsd.org
news: hflcsd.org/news
- **Penfield**
website: www.penfield.edu
[Penfield - District News](#)
- **Pittsford**
website: www.pittsfordschools.org
[Pittsford - District News](#)
- **Rochester**
website: www.rcsdk12.org
[RCSD Bright Spots](#)
- **Rush-Henrietta**
website: www.rhnet.org
[R-H - District News](#)
- **Spencerport**
website: www.spencerportschools.org
[Spencerport - What's New](#)
- **Webster**
website: www.websterschools.org
[Webster - District News](#)
- **West Irondequoit**
website: www.westirondequoit.org
[West Irondequoit News](#)
- **Wheatland-Chili**
website: www.wheatlandchili.org
[Wheatland-Chili News and Announcements](#)



Visit the Urban-Suburban Program website at:

www.monroe.edu/US

A program of

