

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



A Publication of the Cheektowaga Central School District

Fall Issue 2021

Student School Day

Daily class time schedules for the 2021-22 school year are:

Note: All buildings: one-hour early dismissal every Wednesday

- Union East Elementary (students may not be dropped off before 8:40 a.m.)
 - UPK: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 - Grades K-4: 9:00 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.
- Middle School (students may not be dropped off before 7:45 a.m.)
 - Grades 5-8: 8:00 a.m. - 2:34 p.m.
- High School (students may not be dropped off before 7:00 a.m.)
 - Grades 9-12: 7:22 a.m. - 1:47 p.m.
- Early Dismissal Schedule:
 - Union East: 12:30 p.m.
 - Middle School: 11:30 a.m.
 - High School: 10:52 a.m.

School Office Hours

- Central/Business Offices
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- High School 6:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Middle School 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Union East Elementary School
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Keep Us Informed...

Please help keep the school records current by letting the school know about your new address, work telephone numbers, new babysitter numbers, or new home phone numbers. At times, it is extremely important for school personnel to reach parents (i.e. in case of an emergency). To reach any building, phone (716) 686-3600.

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents,

We are well into the school year, and we continue to try to recreate normal. One thing the pandemic has done for us is to truly make us long for the good old days. The days when we didn't argue over wearing masks, worrying about needing to be tested, or wondering if you should be vaccinated. Our focus was on who is our teacher going to be, will I have the best year ever, and did I do my best.

The start of this year might not be normal, but our schools have worked hard to create the best experience for our students and their families while emphasizing safety for all. Some of the highlights have been:

- the opening of our new addition at Union East
- students playing on the new playground at Union East
- the Middle School band practicing for their concert
- the High School having a full spirit week culminating with the homecoming festivities
- Modified, Junior Varsity and Varsity sports participating in full seasons
- Students eating in the cafeteria with their friends

There is so much more going on but most importantly students are coming to school every day focusing on their academics. Teaching and learning are happening with full classes. This part of school has returned to normal and for that we are grateful.

However, we must continue to be diligent in fighting this virus. We need to be mindful of our hand washing, wearing masks, staying home if we are ill, and following all the CDC recommendations. Together we will get through this. We always have.

Yours in Education,

Steven Wright



Steven Wright

Grade A+ Teacher

Congratulations to Union East Elementary School's first-grade teacher, Mrs. Karen Ginestre, on her WIVB Channel 4 "Grade A+ Teacher" nomination. Mrs. Ginestre was nominated by Tracy Jankowski whose son Dominik was in her class last year. Read the full story on WIVB Channel 4. wivb.com/wake-up/ready-4-school/grade-a-teacher-karen-ginestre



Science is Alive in the Middle School

Amplify is leading the way in next-generation curriculum and assessment to support our students' academic growth. Our sixth-grade students investigated how molecules move in hot and cold water using a simulator on Amplify and fifth-graders became scientific presenters, utilizing Book Creator to organize their information. Our eight-grade scientists have been hard at work designing their first experiment in Biology and practicing weighing mass.



District Information

Website, News and Information

Access our website at www.cheektowagak12.org for the following: Community Use of Facilities; Tobacco Use; Student Drug/Alcohol Use; Sexual Harassment; Graduation Requirements; District Newsletters; Internet Use; AIDS/HIV Education; Safety; Special Education; Board of Education; Transportation; Parent Involvement; Emergency Closings; Free/Reduced Meal Information & Application; VADIR & DASA forms; supply lists; registration information; staff directories.

Download the Cheektowaga Central Schools App in the app store or Google play store

Follow us on social media:

Facebook: @CheektowagaCentral.CCSD
 Instagram: @CheektowagaCSD
 Twitter: @CheektowagaCSD



Board of Education

The Board of Education meets on Tuesdays, as listed below, in the Raymond L. Carr Board Room / LGI Room located in the Cheektowaga Central High School. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. The Board of Education transacts business only at scheduled meetings. Special meetings may be called at the request of a Board member. District residents are encouraged to participate in all public board meetings. Agendas are provided to visitors. Opportunity is provided during the course of the meeting for district residents wishing to address the Board. If you wish to have an item placed on the agenda, please submit your request, in writing, to the Board President or to the Superintendent by 4 p.m. of the Tuesday preceding the meeting.

The 2021-22 Board Meeting Schedule is as Follows:

October 12, 2021	April 19, 2022
November 9, 2021	<i>(Adopt CCSD Budget/Vote on BOCES Budget)</i>
December 14, 2021	May 3, 2022
January 11, 2022	<i>(Budget Hearing)</i>
February 8, 2022	May 17, 2022
March 1, 2022	<i>(Budget and Trustee Vote)</i>
<i>(Preliminary Budget Presentation)</i>	June 14, 2022

2021-2022 Board of Education:

Renee Wilson, President
 Heather DuBard, Vice President
 Yvonne Douglass, Trustee
 Carol Kiripolsky, Trustee
 Paul A. Nazzarett, Jr., Trustee
 Edward Schaefer, Trustee
 Derrick Warburton, Trustee

To reach a Board member by telephone, please call the Board Clerk at (716) 686-3606. The Board Clerk will relay your message to the appropriate Board member. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Please note that at any time the Board Meetings may pivot to virtual meetings closed to the public due to the ongoing pandemic. To view the meeting, a link can be found on the homepage of the District website prior to the start of the Board Meeting.

Attendance Phone Directory

All Buildings: (716) 686-3600

To call in a student absence, follow prompts from the Auto Attendant: choose the correct school and press #1 for Attendance.

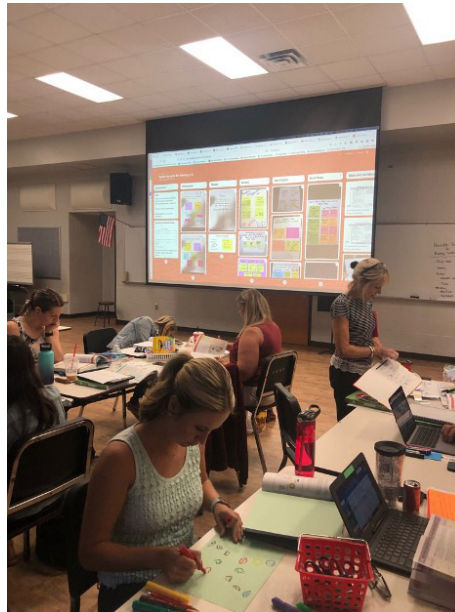
Parents are reminded that if their child will be absent, they should call the school between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. on the day of the absence. The student is always required to bring a written note from a parent on the student's first day back giving the reason for the absence.

It is also necessary for a student to BRING A NOTE FROM A PARENT WHEN AN EARLY DISMISSAL IS NECESSARY. All notes must include a phone number where the parent can be immediately reached.

Union East Elementary School

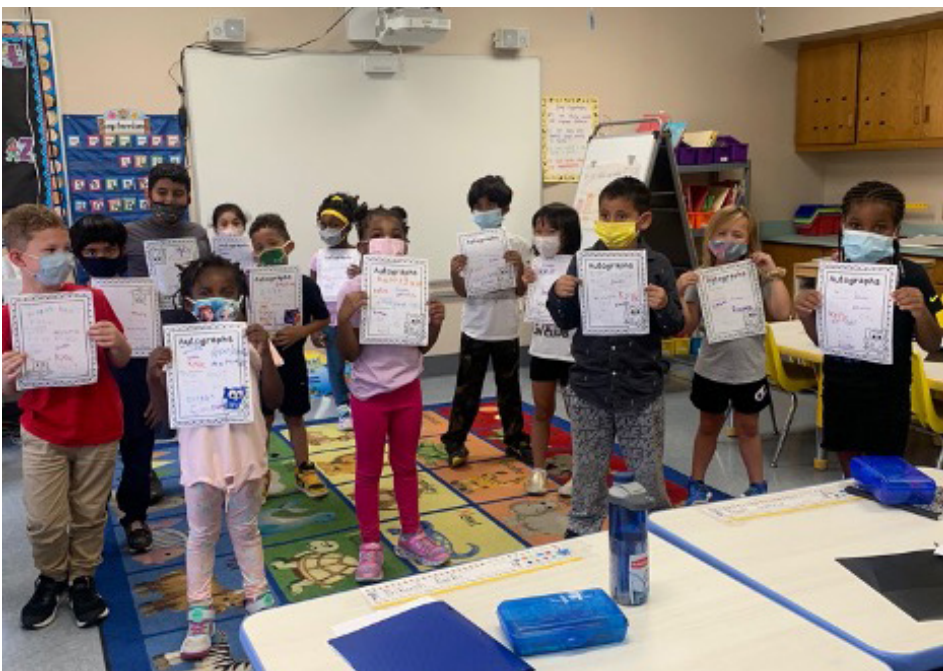
Summer Workshop Sessions with Dr. Tribuzzi

This summer, teachers had the opportunity to continue to learn more about the many practices of reading and writing through workshop sessions lead by Dr. Jeanne Tribuzzi. The topics of the workshop sessions included Intro to Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop, Creating Toolkits, Running Records, Conferring and Strategy Groups, and Assessing.



Phonics

Friends in Mrs. Lattanzio's first-grade class have been studying names in phonics. Students celebrated their names by collecting each other's autographs.



A Message from Your School Nurse

All students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, students in grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, and all new students, need to provide an updated physical to the school district. Forms can be obtained off the district website, from the health office or the doctor can provide an electronic form.

The district's School Health Services program supports your student's academic success by promoting health in the school setting. One way that we provide care for your student is by performing the health screenings as mandated by the State of New York.

During this school year, the following screenings will be required or completed at school:

Vision: Distance/near acuity for all newly entering students, students in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten and students in grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11.

Hearing: Hearing screening for all newly entering students, students in prekindergarten or kindergarten, and students in grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11.

Scoliosis: Scoliosis (spinal curvature) screening for all girls in grades 5 and 7 and boys in grade 9.

Health Appraisals: a physical examination including body mass index and weight status category information is required for all newly entering students, students in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11.

Dental Certificates: A dental certificate is requested for all newly entering students, students in prekindergarten or kindergarten, and students in grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11.

A letter will be sent home if there are any findings on the screening done at school that would cause concern or need medical follow-up. Please call your child's school health office if you have any questions or concerns.

High School:
(716) 686-3628, fax (716) 686-3633

Middle School:
(716) 686-3657, fax (716) 686-3669

Union East Elementary:
Mrs. Krempa, RN,
(716) 686-3623, fax (716) 686-3666

Learning by Methods of Exploration

Mrs. Lewis's fifth-grade class explored concepts in math by building and organizing objects with cubes and putting them in order according to their volume.



Star Standardized Testing

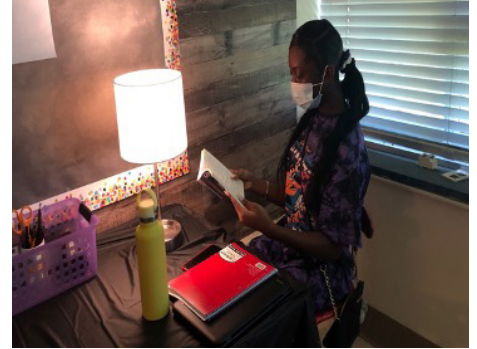
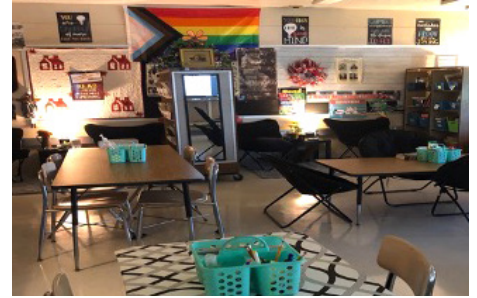
Teachers are using the Star Standardized Testing Program to compose instructional plans tailored to students' needs. Teachers are analyzing and strategically creating groups to engage and support students in Math, ELA, and Reading.



Cheektowaga Middle School

Reading Rooms

Students can't help but want to relax and cozy up with a good book in the the Middle School Reading Rooms. Reading Rooms are spaces that were created with low lighting, comfortable seating and comfort in mind. We look forward to students enjoying reading, writing and discussing in the new Reading Room spaces throughout the year.



Building Stamina for Reading

Mrs. Haines' sixth-grade readers have been very busy working on building up their reading stamina. Each class has a goal to read, non-stop, for 30 minutes. The students have been crushing this goal and are now reading every day in class for 30 minutes. Students are flying through books and have already grown to love reading this year.



Cheektowaga Middle School

Learning about Native American Tribes

Seventh-grade students have been learning about the New York Native American Tribes, the Iroquois and Algonquins. Students will soon begin working on a Myth project and learning the ways of the Longhouse during Social Studies class.



Developing our “Growth Mindset”

We don’t want to say and think “I can’t do it!”; instead it’s “I just can’t do it YET!” Students are working on writing quality sentences and paragraphs about their lives and cultures through an “All About Me” project. The “All About Me” project includes listing topics and details about foods that they eat, music they listen to, their family, clothing and more.

DEVELOPING A GROWN MINDSET

INSTEAD OF...	SAY THIS...
I’m not good at this	What am I missing?
I give up	I’ll use a different strategy
It’s good enough	Is this really my best work?
I can’t make this any better	I can always improve
This is too hard	This may take some time
I made a mistake	Mistakes help me to learn
I just can’t do this	I am going to train my brain
I’ll never be that smart	I will learn how to do this
Plan A didn’t work	There’s always Plan B
My friend can do it	I will learn from them

Readers Workshop

The Cheektowaga Middle ELA Department kicked off the year with a brand-new Readers Workshop curriculum. Readers Workshop allows all of the students at Cheektowagwa Cental Middle School to choose books that are of high interest and just the right fit for each and every child. There is nothing like a new book to make students excited about reading.

Besides reading in our classrooms every day, we have asked students to set aside 20 minutes a night to find a comfy spot and curl up with a good book.

District App

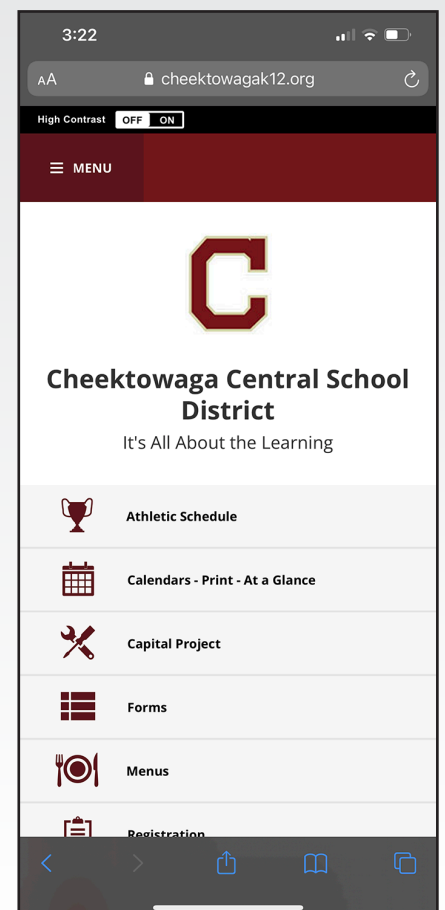
The Cheektowaga Central School District is providing parents, teachers, students and community members with an easy way to stay connected with the schools - a free mobile app!

The app allows users to receive school news, school building and district calendars, push notifications, text messages and more, all directly on their smartphone and mobile devices. The mobile app offers a regularly updated feed of important school news and events.

Parents are not required to download the app to continue to receive school communications, but app users have access to a number of tools that will make those communications more convenient.

To download the app:

- Open App Store (iPhone) or Play Store (Android)
- Search for “Cheektowaga Central SD”
- Customize the app by selecting the schools you are most interested in following for news and updates

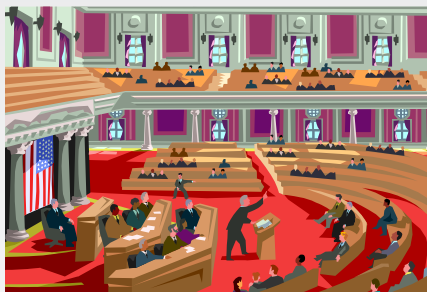


New Social Studies Electives

The Social Studies department is offering new electives to our students this year. One of the new electives being offered this year is Civics in Action. This elective creates a roadmap of activities and opportunities for students to earn the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness. Cheektowaga High School was selected to be 1 of 50 schools in New York State to pilot the new Seal of Civic Readiness program.

The Seal of Civic Readiness is a diploma enhancement that gives students an honor distinction recognizing their knowledge and commitment to civics in our community. This elective course is student driven around civic issues that they are interested in exploring, as well as providing opportunities for students to be active in the community.

Mrs. Hedges, who is teaching the course, has generated enormous interest in only the first couple of days of school. Currently there are 35 juniors and seniors that are on track to earn the seal. There is a buzz in the school as students are actively seeking opportunities to earn the seal even if they can't fit the course in their schedule.



Cheektowaga High School

Welcome Back

The high school's goal for the opening week of school was to welcome students back, make them feel safe, get them signed onto all of the digital platforms and to build a sense of community.

On Friday, September 10, instead of attending traditional classes, the student body split into smaller groups and rotated through several stations. The designated "show your Buffalo Bills spirit day" kicked off with community circles focusing on the character word of the month "loyalty". During the "meet the principal" rotation, students played a kahoot game reviewing the code of conduct. The assistant principals ran a station on student expectations, while student services lead one on stress relief techniques. Other rotations included an alumni panel talking to students about the importance of high school, Renaissance House representatives sharing stories, school pictures for the yearbook, clubs and activities sign-up and cooperative games. The day ended with an outdoor hotdog picnic lunch and free style games in the stadium.



Summer Recap

Cheektowaga Central High School ran three different types of educational programs this past summer. The enrichment program was housed on campus and open to grades nine through twelve. It ran daily, providing instruction in unique and engaging ways. There were many hands-on activities as well as instructional games. Each day, students in ninth-grade received ELA, math, science and team building lessons. Students in tenth through twelfth-grade were able to choose which courses they wanted to take. Options included SAT prep for ELA and math, global 2, US history, geometry and algebra.

Off campus, several students attended college camps. These included Alfred University virtual camp, D'Youville pharmacy camp, iD Tech virtual camp and Villa Maria College camp. Lastly, there was a six-week online program, which helped students recover credits needed to graduate on time. 53 students recovered one or more courses.



Annual Reminders

District Policies on Website

Cheektowaga Central School District school and district policies can be found online on the District website: www.Cheektowagak12.org

Policy on Tobacco Use

The Cheektowaga Central School District's policy on the use of tobacco on school grounds is in accordance with the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, the Pro-Children Act of 1994, and the New York State Clean Indoor Air Act. The District's policy states that tobacco use shall not be permitted and no person shall use tobacco on school grounds, in any district building, or in any vehicles used to transport students or staff.

Detailed Budget Statement

The School District has copies of the current school year budget available in each school building throughout the school year. Also, budget information can be found online on the District website at Cheektowagak12.org. The budget for the following school year will be made available in each school building seven days prior to the budget.

Gun-Free Schools

The Cheektowaga Central School District has adopted the following Gun-Free School Policy in accordance with state and federal laws:

No student shall bring onto school premises or have in his or her possession on school premises any firearm as defined by federal law.

Any student found guilty of bringing a firearm onto school premises or having such a firearm in his or her possession on school premises, after a hearing has been provided, may be suspended from school for a period of not less than one year.

Alternate Transportation Request

Before/After School Alternate Transportation Request

Parents in the Cheektowaga Central School District with children who need transportation to a daycare provider before or after school must notify the Transportation Office so proper arrangements can be made. This includes District students attending Union East Elementary School, Cheektowaga Middle School, or a private or charter school. The licensed daycare center or private babysitter's residence must be located within the boundaries of the District. The request must be consistent daily; requests for multiple pickups or drop-offs on different days will not be honored.

To make arrangements for a child to be transported by the District to or from a childcare provider, parents should complete an Alternate Transportation Request form. To obtain the form, call the Transportation Office at (716) 686-3612, email busing@ccsd-k12.net, or download the form from the District website at Cheektowagak12.org/domain/331. Mail or bring the completed form to the Transportation Office, Cheektowaga Central School District, 3600 Union Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14225; or fax to 681- 5232; or email to busing@ccsd-k12.net. Please note: it takes up to five student attendance days after the form is received to finalize transportation arrangements.

HIPAA and Its Application to the School Setting

HIPAA (the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act) is a federal law that imposes new standards for the protection of individual health information. The confidentiality and privacy of school health records that are part of the student's educational record are governed solely by FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). The passage of HIPAA does not change that in any way. HIPAA does, however, affect the nature of the exchange of information from the student's health care provider to the school. Informal exchanges between health providers and school health staff are no longer permitted; explicit written authorization is required from the parent or guardian in order for information to flow to the school. For example, immunization records require such authorization.

Within the school setting, FERPA continues to govern the exchange of health care information that is contained in the student's educational record. It is not necessary to obtain a release of information from a parent or guardian in order to share such information with school staff for the purposes of insuring the best and most appropriate care for a student.

Statement of Compliance – Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 and Age Discrimination

The Cheektowaga Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, religion, creed, ethnic origin, marital status, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, disability or handicap, in the educational programs or activities it operates. This policy of non-discrimination includes the hiring and advancement of employees; salaries and other benefits; counseling services for students; student access to course offerings; educational programs (including technical education programs), athletics and other activities; and the business activities of the Board of Education. The coordinators of activities relating to compliance with Title IX and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended) at the Cheektowaga Central School District are Gretchen Sukdolak and Scott Zipp, who may be contacted at 3600 Union Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14225; phone (716) 686-3645.

Availability of the Asbestos Management Plan

Part 763.93(G)(4) of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations implementing the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1987 (AHERA) requires annual notification of parent and employee organizations of the availability of the district's asbestos management plan. The management plan identifies the location of asbestos-containing building materials, the condition and friability of the materials, and the response action to be taken. The management plan is on file in the administrative office of each school in the Cheektowaga Central School District, and in the Business Office. It will be made available for inspection within five (5) working days of receipt of a written request.

Annual Reminders

Project Positive: The Warrior Way

Learning Expectations for Success:

- Be on time and ready
- Be respectful
- Be responsible
- Be safe
- Be kind

Follow Us on Social Media:

Facebook: @CheektowagaCentral.CCSD

Instagram: @CheektowagaCSD

Twitter: @CheektowagaCSD



District Vision

To Inspire

District Mission

To inspire a high level of learning
for all students

District Priorities

Improve student learning, The whole child,
Create opportunities for our students that
incorporate 21st Century skills

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act - FERPA

The Cheektowaga Central School District is required by law to provide an annual reminder of the rights of parents and eligible students (18 years of age and older) concerning school records.

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), also known as the Buckley Amendment, parents and eligible students are guaranteed access to a student's school records. Copies are available to parents or eligible students upon request at a fixed cost.

Parents have the right to challenge the content of a school record. This right includes the right to a hearing to present evidence that the school record should be changed. The school is required to maintain the confidentiality of all pupil records. Under FERPA, school districts may disclose designated directory information if they have given notice and information to parents/guardians and adult students on how to opt out of this disclosure of data.

Finally, under FERPA, school districts may release the name, address and phone number of students to military recruiters unless parents/guardians opt out.

Pesticide Notification

New York State Education Law Section 409-11 requires all public and non-public schools to provide notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty and staff about pesticide applications. The Cheektowaga Central School District currently uses integrated pest management practices and the least toxic approach to managing pests. Although we do not anticipate the application of a pesticide in any of our school buildings, we will place any interested person's name on a list for 48-hour prior notification of pesticide use, as required by New York State Education Law. To receive 48-hour notification of pesticide application, complete the accompanying form and fax it to (716) 681-5232, or return it to Bruce Vona, Director of Facilities, Cheektowaga Central School District, 3600 Union Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14225.

Cheektowaga Central School District

Request for 48-Hour Notice of Pesticide Application (please print clearly)

School Building: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Day telephone: _____

Evening telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Board of Education

Renee Wilson, *President*
Heather DuBard, *Vice President*
Yvonne Douglass, *Trustee*
Carol Kiripolsky, *Trustee*
Paul A. Nazzarett, Jr., *Trustee*
Edward Schaefer, *Trustee*
Derrick Warburton, *Trustee*

Superintendent of Schools

Steven Wright
swright@ccsd-k12.net

Newsletter Editors

Steven Wright, *Superintendent of Schools*
swright@ccsd-k12.net

www.cheektowagak12.org

District Offices

3600 Union Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
(716) 683-3606

Registration Office

(716) 686-3665
sweinholtz@ccsd-k12.net

School Board meetings are generally held the second Tuesday of the month in the Raymond L. Carr Board Room, 3600 Union Road, Cheektowaga, at 7 p.m. Those planning on attending are encouraged to verify meeting date and time by calling (716) 686-3606.