

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



A PUBLICATION OF THE CHEEKTOWAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2019

Message from the Superintendent

Service to Others in 2019-2020



Superintendent
Mary Morris

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year at Cheektowaga Central. This school year our theme is to serve others. Serving others is an important leadership skill and an area where we can all use more practice.

Along with our theme of serving others, our three priorities will continue to focus on: developing a culture where there is a high level of learning for all students; developing The Whole Child, that overarching piece of social/emotional development and wellness; and developing 21st century skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. What follows is a snapshot of what we accomplished and what is to come.

A high level of learning for all

Our curriculum leaders along with administration have established an overall academic goal: to create and implement preK-12 instructional practices that align with our curriculum and target problem-solving skills, critical thinking and inquiry skills.

- We have sustained a comprehensive plan for our students to write daily and with quality. Look for terms such as RACES, RAPS and writers workshop as evidence of your child's learning. Vocabulary development is an area to expect to hear more about from each building.
- K-12 math teachers continue to work with Buffalo State College in improving our students' thinking and problem-solving skills involved in mathematics.
- Additional curriculum work in science and social studies will focus on the inquiry process. Inquiry is an intellectual process used by scientists and social scientists to address real life problems. Inquiry skills are embedded in the revised New York State learning standards for science and social studies.
- Every discipline will develop plans on how they will support our academic goals.

The Whole Child

- Although the Project Positive grant has ended, we will continue to support the work of creating and maintaining a positive climate in our schools. The "5-B's" are alive and well.
- All staff members have received initial awareness training in Trauma Informed Care in Schools, Non-violent Crisis Intervention and Restorative Practices.
- Look for multiple opportunities for service learning. Students at the High School will be engaged with our community in a variety of ways this year. Although on a smaller scale, the Middle and School and Union East will follow suit as well, giving service learning a much broader exposure across K-12.

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First Day, School Hours

The first day of school for all students (UPK-12) is Wed., Sept. 4.

2019-2020 School Hours

Union East UPK - K

9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Little Angels UPK

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Union East: Grades 1-4

8:55 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Middle School: Grade 5 - 8

8:06 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

High School: Grades 9 - 12

7:22 a.m. - 1:47 p.m.

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Bus Information

All parents and guardians registered in the Cheektowaga Central School District should receive notification from WNY Bus Company with the time and location of the bus that will be transporting their children to and from school in the 2019-20 school year.



If you do not receive this information by Aug. 30, contact WNY Bus Company at 681-2100.

Message from the Superintendent

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21st Century Skills

- This fall, all students in grades 2-12 will receive their own Chromebook. Students in grades 7-12 will be able to bring them home. Equity and access to state of the art technology helps to develop strong students who will achieve academically.
- Every Union East classroom have smartboards/projectors to facilitate instruction. We will continue our plan to bring interactive technology into every classroom, now moving to Middle School and High School.
- Several pilots are planned for 2019-20. A cluster of 3rd and 4th grade classrooms will create 21st century learning spaces and opportunities throughout the school day. The Middle School will be offering a STEM elective as well.

Capital Project and Facility Update

Our Buildings & Grounds staff, along with Turner Construction and Gordon Jones & Associates, are completing the last leg of our capital project. I commend all of them for their hard work and dedication. The work was needed, and the improvements will help us thrive as a 21st century learning institution.

School Board Association Honors Burgett



Superintendent Mary Morris is shown here in June with Board of Education Trustee Walter Burgett as he was recognized by the Erie County Association of School Boards for his 15 years of service to the Cheektowaga Central School District Board of Education.

Class of 2019 Top 10 Seniors



**#1
Christopher
Bevan
Valedictorian**

GPA: 100.03

University at Buffalo



**#2
Marissa
Sullivan
Salutatorian**

GPA: 100.01

University at Buffalo



**#3
Adam Serio**

GPA: 99.95

Canisius College



**#4
Jordan
Richardson**

GPA: 99.86

University at Buffalo



**#5
Ana Gredelj**

GPA: 98.69

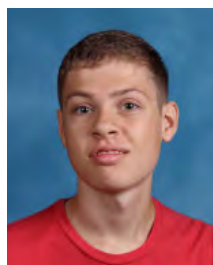
SUNY Geneseo



**#6
Maya
Karmilowicz**

GPA: 98.05

D'Youville College



**#7
Jesse Statz**

GPA: 97.80

University at Buffalo



**#8
Kathy Le**

GPA: 97.19

United States Army Reserve



**#9
Emily
Christmann**

GPA: 97.16

SUNY Cortland



**#10
Rachel Blake**

GPA: 97.02

SUNY Fredonia



Project Positive:

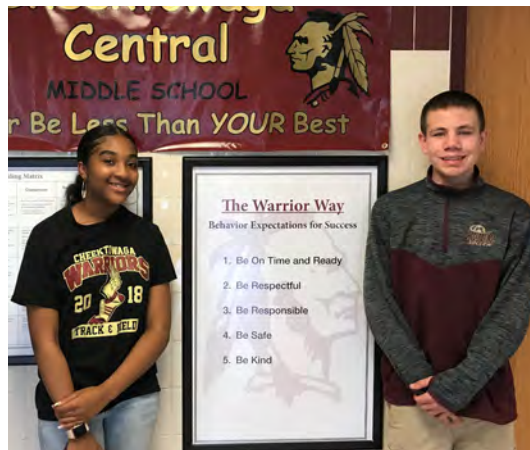
Cultivating a Positive Learning Environment Together

—by Nicole Kerner, District Coordinator, Project Positive

In preparation for the 2019-2020 school year, during the summer Project Positive Tier 1 and Tier 2 teams in each building spent many hours diligently planning. The teams carefully analyzed data from student surveys, teacher surveys, discipline data, and other assessments. This data was used to help the Tier 1 teams action-plan for strengthening their current building-wide Tier 1 supports. Including such things as the acknowledgement system, possible school-wide celebration ideas, identifying alternate classroom interventions for promoting learning, community circles, and planning the logistics for student and staff kickoffs. The data was also used to help Tier 2 teams action-plan for strengthening Tier 2 supports, by identifying appropriate and adequate interventions for students not responding to traditional Tier 1 instruction/supports. Our teachers also had the opportunity over the summer to participate in a two-day Restorative Practice training, an evidence-based strategy to help strengthen and repair student-teacher and student-peer relationships and create a strong sense of community.

Together as a district partnering with parents and caregivers, focusing on the “Whole Child,” we will continue to cultivate a positive learning environment that promotes and encourages endless opportunities for learning for all of our students. Parents and caregivers are encouraged at home to continue teaching and re-teaching your scholar the importance and value of demonstrating our district-wide behavior expectations, “The 5B’s”: Be on Time and Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Be Kind, both in school and out in the community. Using this common language both in school and at home will help to promote positive behaviors and increase the opportunities for learning.

With the support from home and at school, we are looking forward to another successful year for our students here at Cheektowaga Central School District.



Ninth-graders De'Maria Miles and Michael Klepfer pause for a photo with “The 5 B’s.”



Juniors Jayden DuBard and Cameron Chandler know the value of demonstrating “The 5 B’s.”

Retired in 2019

With gratitude and best wishes, the Cheektowaga Central School District recognizes the following employees who retired in 2019:

High School

Robert Tufte, CDOS teacher
Rodney Staszak, guidance counselor
Jackie Sandel, teaching assistant
Pat Somogy, teacher aide

Union East Elementary School

Karen Robinson, teacher
Gail Pijacki, teaching assistant
Darlene Pache, teacher aide

Middle School

Rita Pino, teacher
William Hance, teaching assistant
Marie Lamonte, lunch monitor

Central Office

Sue Kauffman, payroll/clerical
Sandy Solecki, tech aide

New Bus Liaisons

Union East Elementary School will be looking to implement parent bus liaisons for every bus this year, both morning and afternoon. This idea came from a “think tank” of administrators and Union East parents. The liaisons will not have to ride buses but will need to be the communication wheel between families on a specific bus, WNY Bus Co., and the District. A small time commitment and training will be involved. Call Audra at Union East 686-3616 for more information.

Middle School Enjoys Luau Lunch Party Reward



Cheektowaga Central Middle School students were acknowledged in June for their efforts in following the 5B's and being referral-free for the last month of school. Students enjoyed a Luau Lunch Party during their lunch period. The Luau Lunch Party included festive music, special lunch, leis for each student, popicles, and a limbo contest. A fun time was had by all.

Raising Awareness



High School Principal Scott Zipp proudly sports his Project Songbird t-shirt at a training session over the summer. Members of the high school's Challenge Club developed Project Songbird to reduce stigma and raise awareness of mental health issues.

Using Solar Heat

The hot weather in July was perfect as students made solar ovens as part of the Union East Elementary School summer program. Here they are testing their engineering skills by cooking s'mores using the equipment they created.



Learning for the 'Whole Child'

by Gretchen Sukdolak, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

This year the focus for the Department of Pupil Personnel Services will be to continue celebrating learning for and with regard to the "Whole Child." During the 2018-19 school year, the district embarked upon a journey of awareness regarding positive mental health literacy and the 3 key educational factors we seek to teach our children:

Key Factor #1: *Self-Care and promoting positive health and overall well being.*

Key Factor #2: *Developing healthy relationships to promote positive mental health and resource management.*

Key Factor #3: *Developing skills to utilize personal and community resources related to mental health-knowing what, when, where and how to ask for help for self and others.*

Throughout the district, we learned that each of these 3 key factors were occurring daily in classrooms across K-12. In each building, there were several projects as well as activities which highlighted all of the factors for students.

As an example, Union East participated daily (all students) in community circles within their classrooms. These circles helped students to start their day on a positive note, helped them to learn to share how they were feeling as well as how to ask for help with solving a problem or concern. The circle itself is utilized to promote the positive and allows children to learn about one another, while building/growing positive relationships with others.

Another example included student leaders at the High School, developing "Project Songbird" with Social Worker Joan Conti, which focused on suicide prevention, utilization of personal and community resources, and knowing where, when, how to access help for self and others.

In all buildings, students discuss and are held accountable for the "5-B's": Be on Time & Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Kind and Be Safe. These "5-B's" are rooted in the school-wide "celebration of the positive", "project positive" and "the Warrior Way." Students at the Middle School level (as an example), participate in social skills development lessons with school counselors, social workers and discuss positive physical as well as mental health, via the PE class or health classes respectively.

Whatever the level, the classroom, the building - ALL students are learning to take care of themselves physically, socially and emotionally.

Our journey will continue this year with a focus on positive mental health and the district in turn will provide resources for students, staff, and the community. Professional development will be provided to staff to help students continue to learn and grow socially-emotionally. We are planning the second annual Community Night which will feature local community organizations, the Cheektowaga Police Department and others who provide resources for our students and families in positive mental health. In addition, the district will be participating with Genesee Valley BOCES in the development of a comprehensive school counseling plan and will continue to support growth in the areas of Trauma Informed Schools, Crisis Prevention and Restorative Practices.

We look forward to building and developing many new educational partnerships so that all may benefit from positive physical and mental health within our community.



School Board President Honored

Renee Wilson, the president of the Cheektowaga Central School District Board of Education, was among those honored on June 6 by the Erie County Association of School Boards with the organization's Medallion Star. She is shown here (front row, fourth from left) with the other Medallion Star awardees.



Special Education Offers Assistance

The Department of Pupil Personnel Services encompasses all things related to Special Education and 504 planning. If you have any questions regarding the process of Special Education, including initial referrals, evaluations, meeting requirements, assistive technology, specialized equipment and more, please contact the department at (716) 686-3644 or (716) 686-3643.

As always, you should first contact your child's teacher or school if you have questions regarding the classroom, grades, or progress at school. If your questions are specific to Special Education, we look forward to speaking with you.

Cheektowaga Warriors 2019 Varsity Football Schedule



Week 1	MCS / HS	Friday 9/6	7:00	
Week 2	Lewport	Friday 9/13	7:00	Teacher Appreciation Day
Week 3	@ East Aurora	Friday 9/20	7:00	
Week 4	@ Pioneer	Friday 9/27	7:00	
Week 5	Grand Island	Friday 10/4	7:00	Homecoming
Week 6	Lake Shore	Friday 10/11	7:00	Senior Night
Week 7	@ Maryvale	Friday 10/18	7:00	

Legislation Removing Non-Medical Exemption from School Vaccination Requirements

Please note that *Effective June 13, 2019, all non-medical exemptions from school vaccination requirements for children were removed, due to signed legislation by Governor Andrew Cuomo.*

ALL children must be vaccinated to attend public, private or parochial school (students UPK-grade 12). This also includes child day care settings.

If you have any questions regarding the immunization requirement, please contact your child's nurse at their respective buildings. You may also contact the New York State Health Department or the NYSED website for additional information. This requirement is now fully in effect. The deadline for obtaining first dose vaccinations for children attending school in the fall is 14 days from the first day of school. Within the first 30 days of the first day of school, parents and guardians of such children must show that they have made appointments for all required follow-up doses.

Karp and Rogers Receive Silver Apple Award

Two special education teachers at Union East Elementary School in June became the first in the school to receive the Silver Apple Award from the Erie 1 Boces Regional Special Education Tech Support Center.

Debbie Karp was recognized for her growth mindset in improving the systems in the classroom and applying learned strategies in the classroom. She is constantly working for the benefit of students, figuring out what works and tirelessly working hard to perfect her craft. Writing measurable annual goals and a comprehensive PLP make Ms. Karp the perfect candidate for the Silver Apple Award, according to Melissa Mitchell, Union East Elementary School principal.



Debbie Karp

Lauren Rogers was also recognized for her growth mindset in classroom systems and for making professional development a priority. Ms. Mitchell says she always wears the hat of "doing what's right for students," actively listening and positively reacting to their concerns. "She works hard to perfect her craft," said Ms. Mitchell.



Lauren Rogers

Congratulations to Ms. Karp and Ms. Rogers for their hard work and efforts on behalf of District students.

Summer Learning



Mrs Ozimek's summer program group at Union East Elementary School had fun with their color and light tiles. Students were excited by what they saw in the tiles and enjoyed sharing their findings in their journals.

Annual Reminders

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 Maureen George and Gretchen Sukdolak, who may be contacted at 3600 Union Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14225; phone (716) 686-3645.

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 hearing for the next school year.

District Policies on website

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

www.Cheektowagak12.org

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 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.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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.

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 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: _____

Annual Reminders

A Message from Your School Nurse

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 prekindergarten 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 prekindergarten 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: Mrs. Brock, RN
phone 686-3628, fax 686-3633

Middle School: Mrs. Heerdt, RN
phone 686-3657, fax 686-3669

Union East Elem.: Mrs. Krempa, RN
phone 686-3623, fax 686-3666

<p>Establish procedures that clarify expectations & enhance learning</p>	<p><i>“It’s All About The Learning”</i></p>	<p><i>Build</i> meaningful relationships with staff, students and community to promote learning</p>
<p><u>Vision</u> To inspire...</p>	<p>CHEEKTOWAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT</p>	<p><u>Mission</u> To inspire a high level of learning for all students</p>
<p>Develop a culture of thinking & learning</p>	<p><u>Priorities</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Learning</i> <i>The Whole Child</i> <i>21st Century Skills</i> 	<p>Motivate staff and students to do their best work & inspire the love of learning</p>

Motivating Students to Learn

—Maureen George, Director of Learning

The Cheektowaga Central School District’s mission is to inspire a high level of learning for all students. With the implementation of new rigorous standards and new curriculum, our classrooms are transforming into laboratories for active learning. Active or inquiry-based learning requires students to participate in class, as opposed to sitting and listening quietly and memorizing content. The active learning classroom is driven by students applying themselves to learning and demonstrating their thinking.

Research has demonstrated that engaging students in the learning process increases their attention and focus, motivates them to practice

higher-level critical thinking skills, and promotes meaningful learning experiences.

Over the last few years, the district has invested time and resources into developing classrooms where student engagement is at the heart of all lessons. Once a student is engaged, there is space for inquiry, critical thinking, and cooperative learning. Students learn best when they are doing something that requires an investment and a commitment to participation, rather than listening to a lecture or watching a video. Being active often means interacting with other learners to solve problems or debate topics. In inquiry-based learning, there is often a struggle to achieve a solution and sometimes

there is not always one right answer. Students need to understand that it is okay to not always be right but it is through the process of trial and error and discovery that they make connections to the content.

To inspire a high level of learning for all students, you can expect teachers to foster a learning environment that provides opportunities for higher order thinking, student choice, inquiry, critical thinking, collaboration and curiosity. Students will be motivated to be curious where one question leads to another and another and another. This chasing of knowledge down a rabbit hole is the essence of active learning.



Board of Education

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716.686.3606

Registration Office

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School Board meetings are generally held the second Tuesday of the month at the District Office, 3600 Union Road, Cheektowaga, at 7 p.m. Those planning on attending are encouraged to verify meeting date and time by calling 686-3606.

