

## HONORING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

*A Message From Superintendent Dr. Joshua Liddell*

As the 2025–26 school year draws near, our excitement is building for what promises to be a truly special year! It holds added significance as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of our school building, which first opened in 2000. It's a perfect time to reflect on our proud history and look ahead to an even brighter future.

We invite you to join us during **Homecoming Week (September 28 – October 4)** for a special community celebration. On **Saturday, October 4**, we'll host a video presentation, building tour, and community brunch. This event will highlight our school's journey over the past 25 years—showcasing milestones, sharing stories, and recognizing the remarkable progress we've made together. Please see the back page for additional details.

Over the summer, our dedicated teachers, coaches, school leaders, and support staff have been working diligently to prepare for the return of students on **Thursday, September 4**. We hope this issue of the Back to School Navigator provides helpful information as your family gets ready for the new school year.

We're also excited to welcome everyone to our **K–12 Open House on Wednesday, September 3, from 4 to 6 pm**. This is a great opportunity for students to meet their teachers, explore their classrooms, and ease into the year ahead.



# "A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE"

*Celebrating Student Success, Community Spirit, and Achievement continued on page 2...*

Please join us in welcoming several outstanding new staff members to our school community:



Sarah Tarnowski, Office Clerk



Aron Oakes, Technology Specialist



Jason Beichner, School Safety Advisor



Katie Knight, Teaching Assistant

We're thrilled to have them on board and part of our Chautauqua Lake family.

On the academic front, we're very proud to share exciting results from the spring 2025 New York State assessments (Grades 3–8 ELA, Math, and Science) and Regents exams. Preliminary data shows that our district made gains in nearly every area compared to the previous year—a direct result of the hard work and collaboration of our students, families, teachers, and staff. These results will put us once again at the top of the regional rankings!

To build on that success, our educators have spent the summer updating our Elementary and Secondary building priorities. These priorities, aligned with our district-wide goals, will guide our work in the months ahead. In the first few weeks of September, our teachers will set meaningful individual and team goals to help move our district forward. Last year, we met **97% of our 155 goals**, a 6% increase from the previous year—an achievement we're very proud of.



In terms of facilities, our campus is looking better than ever. A few highlights include:

- A **refurbished stadium scoreboard**
- A brand-new **outdoor softball and baseball batting cage**
- Fresh **sealing and coating of the main parking lot**

These improvements ensure that our learning and extracurricular spaces are welcoming and well-maintained.

We also want to share positive news about our district's long-term financial stewardship. From the 2021–22 school year to the upcoming 2025–26 year, the **school tax rate has decreased from \$8.63 to \$6.55 per \$1,000 of full value**. That's a **reduction of \$2.08**, or over **24%**, thanks to responsible budgeting and careful planning—all while continuing to deliver high-quality educational opportunities. Our school tax rate is the lowest in the entire county.

We're deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our community. The collective efforts of our staff, families, Board of Education, and administration have helped us become one of the top school districts in Western New York. We will continue to strive to make the best possible educational environment for our students!

If you have any questions as we approach the first day of school, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of our offices:

- **Elementary Office:** (716) 753-5841
- **Secondary Office:** (716) 753-5881

You can also reach out to me directly at (716)753-5808.  
We can't wait to welcome everyone back.

Let's make it another amazing year!

Go Eagles!

*Joshua E. Liddell Ph. D.*



**REFLECTING ON THE PAST**  
**CELEBRATING THE FUTURE**

