

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

A Publication of the Cheektowaga Central School District

Fall Issue 2024



## A Message from the Superintendent



*Mr. Scott Zipp,  
Superintendent  
of Schools*

As we enjoy the change of seasons and the beauty of fall, I hope you are enjoying the new school year with enthusiasm and joy! This is the perfect time to get involved, develop relationships, take CHARGE, and make a difference. Whether it's joining a club, participating in activities, or volunteering your time, every effort counts.

As a district we believe in the well-being of every student and staff member. We recognize that a positive mental and emotional state is crucial for effective learning. Together, we can create a structured and engaging environment that allows for growth and success of everyone.

Keep in mind that success isn't just about talent; it's about the effort and hard work you put in every single day. Set goals, challenge yourself, seek help when you need it, and stay committed. Remember every small step you take can lead to significant progress.

So ask yourself...What's one change I can make this week to elevate my academic game? What's one change I can make this week to elevate my personal game?

Let's make this a successful and fulfilling school year...where character, curriculum, and community connect!

Scott Zipp  
Superintendent of Schools

## Join Our Team!

**The Cheektowaga  
Central School  
District is hiring.**

Visit  
[Cheektowagak12.org/Employment](https://cheektowagak12.org/Employment)  
for a list of open positions.

## District Mission, Vision and Priorities

**District Vision:** Where Character,  
Curriculum, and Community Connect

**District Mission:** Create a structured  
and engaging environment that fosters  
positive relationships and the well-being of  
ALL in reaching their full potential.

**District Priorities:** Well-Being,  
Structure, Engagement, Relationships

## Chancellor Visit

Chancellor Young and Vice Chancellor Chin visited Cheektowaga Central to observe the Science of Reading and the partnership with the UB Center for Literacy and Reading Instruction. They observed lessons from the new Read STOP Write Program in Middle School classrooms and focused on the teacher residency program. The Chancellor aimed to see the clinical experience model in action by spending time with teacher residents. The visit concluded with meetings involving stakeholders to discuss experiences with the highlighted programs.





## Website, News and Information



Go to [www.cheektowagak12.org](http://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; and more.

### Follow us on social media:

Facebook: @CheektowagaCentral.CCSD

Instagram: @CheektowagaCSD

X (formerly Twitter): @CheektowagaCSD

### Follow our Buildings on social media:

**Union East Elementary School**

Facebook: @UnionEastElementary

**Middle School**

Facebook: @CheektowagaMiddleSchool

X (formerly Twitter): @CheektowagaMS

**High School**

Facebook: @CheektowagaHighSchool

## School Office Hours

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

## Union East Elementary School

# Buffalo Bills Star Surprises Students with a Visit

In early October, Union East Elementary received a special surprise visitor. Dion Dawkins of the Buffalo Bills came to visit. He visited classrooms and spoke with students. The students all left with a box of his new cereal, Shnow Crunch.



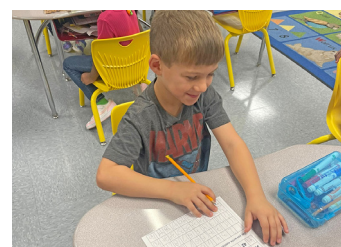
## Octoberfest

Union East Elementary School hosted their annual Octoberfest celebration on October 2. This outdoor event was very well attended by students and their families. A huge word of thanks to our special area teachers for planning this amazing event.



## Learning for Everyone

Since the start of the school year, the teachers at Union East have participated in a series of professional learning sessions in order to strengthen their skills to help our developing readers. Each day, each student at Union East participates in Differentiated Reading Intervention. Our students are receiving individualized learning that is designed to meet their needs as a reader.



# Cheektowaga Central Middle School

## National Unity Day

On October 16, Cheektowaga Central Middle School celebrated National Unity Day, an important occasion for our community to come together in promoting kindness, acceptance, and inclusion while standing against bullying. Students and staff showed their support for bullying prevention by wearing the color orange, visually demonstrating our collective commitment to creating a safe and nurturing environment for everyone. Thank you to all who participated and helped make this day a powerful statement of unity.



## Students of the Month

### September

#### Fifth Grade



#### Ahmed Muntasir

Ahmed takes his job as a student seriously here at CCMS. Ahmed's teachers have shared that he is always on task and has a positive attitude every day. He even turns in his homework early! He is kind and respectful to all teachers and classmates. Ahmed also participates in Math Club and Science Club.



#### Claire Wardzala

Claire's teachers were proud to honor Claire this month as the September Student of the Month recipient. Her teachers have all agreed that Claire is a very hard worker, always focused, always prepared for class with materials and completed homework assignments, and always treats everyone with kindness and respect. In her free time, Claire is an avid dancer.

#### Sixth Grade



#### Sofia Abbasi

As a role model both in and out of the classroom, Sofia always completes homework, is respectful to her teachers and peers, and is a kind individual. Sofia values her friendships here at CCMS and enjoys spending time with these friends. Sofia also finds time to read and draw which are her favorite after school hobbies.



#### Tahsan Bhuiyan

Tahsan takes charge of his education by actively participating in classroom lessons and coming to each class prepared and ready to learn. In his spare time, Tahsan enjoys playing video games.

## New Faces at CCMS

We are thrilled to announce the addition of the following members to our Middle School staff for the 2024-2025 school year:

Yasir Alqaysi, Science Gr. 7

Nick Alvarado, Clerical - Student Services

Sheila Casper, Spanish 7/8

Rebecca Gozzo, Social Studies Gr. 7

Marisa Leitten, 5th Grade  
Special Education Math/Science

Sarah Lombardo, Teacher Aide 7/8 12:1:1

David Magowan, General Music Grs. 5- 8

Deanna Michalski, School Psychologist

Kelly Omari, Clerical - Attendance

Ygeutte Rudahindwa, ENL 7/8

We are also excited to welcome back to our building the following substitutes:

Emma Bell, Building Based  
Substitute Teacher

Barb Bluman, Building Based  
Substitute Teacher

Jillian McKinney, Long-term Sub:  
5th Grade (Willson)

## Teacher of the Month

A Cheektowaga Central Middle School Teacher of the Month highlights an educator each



month who consistently demonstrates the ability to instill a love of learning in students of all abilities and backgrounds, maintains high expectations for all students, and upholds strong values, integrity, and professional ethics. These teachers are open to learning and experimenting with new ideas to expand their professional knowledge. Additionally, a Teacher of the Month possesses strong interpersonal skills and the ability to collaborate effectively with students, parents, colleagues, administration, and the community. They also maintain a solid understanding of subject matter, curriculum content, student growth and development, and instruction.

Please join us as we celebrate our September and October Teachers of the Month.

*continued on next page.*



## Teacher of the Month

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### September

The Cheektowaga Central Middle School is proud to recognize Mrs. MacVittie as the September 2024 Teacher of the Month.

Mrs. MacVittie teaches fifth grade ELA and Social Studies. Mrs. MacVittie routinely creates a love of learning in students of all abilities and backgrounds. If and when you step into her classroom you will see that she has high expectations for all students. Her teaching is rooted in a strong sense of values, integrity and professional ethics. She works to ensure that all students succeed. As a member of the faculty Mrs. MacVittie demonstrates strong human relations and cooperative skills with students, parents, colleagues, administration, and community. Lastly, you can always count on her to be teaching with a positive attitude, smile, and warmth for her students.

### October

The CCMS Teacher of the Month for October is Lenette Braddock. Ms. Braddock teaches sixth-grade math and serves as the sixth-grade team leader. She makes a significant impact on both students and colleagues by fostering excitement for learning and treating everyone with respect, all while maintaining a friendly and enthusiastic demeanor.

Ms. Braddock motivates her students to learn and achieve through creativity and imaginative instructional practices. She is recognized as a leader both in the classroom and throughout the school.



# Cheektowaga Central Middle School

## Students of the Month

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### Seventh Grade



#### Michael Zukowski

Michael knows what is needed for success as you can be sure to find him in the cafeteria getting some extra reading time in. In addition to his drive for success, Michael is currently a member of the soccer team here at CCMS and plays hockey through the Town of Cheektowaga.



#### Lillian Thomas

Lillian clearly works hard in school, taking on challenging coursework in honors classes. Her math honors teacher described her as a natural leader who is always engaged in lessons. In addition to focusing on her academics, Lillian is a member of the CCMS Cheerleading Squad and will be participating in Junior Unified.

### Eighth Grade



#### Carter Ballard

Carter is a natural leader both academically and among his peers. He is involved in National Junior Honor Society, stage crew, Junior Unified, and plays baseball through the Town of Cheektowaga and participates in bowling here at CCMS.



#### Nissi Tshabu

Nissi takes advantage of every opportunity to learn. She is currently taking it upon herself to study subjects, such as philosophy, and will impress you with her knowledge of world languages. Nissi is a member of the National Honor Society and enjoys drawing, painting, and sketching.

## October

### Fifth Grade



#### Penelope Close

As a model student in the classroom, Penelope's teachers have noticed that she completes all assignments on time with high quality work and is kind to all her peers. Penelope is involved in many activities outside school time including ice skating, swimming, reading for pleasure, and participation in the CCMS school musical.



#### Chase Stachoski-Fuller

As a person who loves all things math, Chase is a member of the CCMS Math Club and emphatically reported that his favorite subject is math. On the weekends, Chase spends time outdoors and even occasionally takes an outdoor stroll with his mom.

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# Cheektowaga Central Middle School

## Students of the Month

continued from page 4

### Sixth Grade



#### Owen Majerowski

Owen's commitment to academic excellence is obvious through his academic achievements here at CCMS. In addition to his love of math, Owen enjoys playing football for the Girls and Boys Club.



#### Charlotte Taub

Charlotte enjoys science; however, her dream is to become a professional dancer and to make this happen, Charlotte is gaining much experience in the dance field by participating in the CCMS school musical as part of the lioness ensemble. Charlotte also spends much of her time in the dance studio engaging in various forms of dance that include jazz, tap, and ballet.

### Seventh Grade



#### Eli Fick

Eli has been dedicated to his love of baseball and has been playing for the Cheektowaga Knights for nearly a decade. Not only is Eli devoted to baseball, but he also takes his school work quite seriously here at CCMS as he has accepted the rigor and challenge of honors courses.



#### Natalie Roman

As a self-motivated, do-it-yourself individual, Natalie has been teaching herself the sport of archery where she practices in her own backyard. It is no surprise that ELA is Natalie's favorite subject, as she is an avid reader with the Percy Jackson series being her favorite. Natalie is also a member of the Art Club here at CCMS.

### Eighth Grade



#### Lorelai Thomas

Lorelai is an all around top notch student here at CCMS as her teachers report she puts forth full effort into any endeavor. Her teachers agree that she is very conscientious and thoughtful and that all her work displays creativity and hard work. Lorelai has made All County for band and is involved in the school musical here at CCMS. While Lorelai is known for her musical passion and talent, she brings the same dedication and effort to all subject areas.



#### Branson Pham

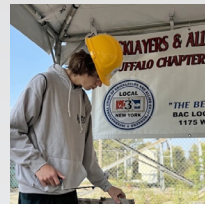
Branson's teachers report that he is respectful, diligent, has a hard work ethic, and is kind. All of these qualities have allowed Branson to partake in more challenging honors courses here at CCMS. In his free time, Branson is a member of the boys soccer team here at CCMS.

## High School

### WNY Construction Days Trip



On October 4, junior and senior students had the opportunity to visit the Operating Engineers Training Center to learn about the building trades and construction fields. Students were able to get hands-on experience with heavy machinery and equipment, watched demonstrations by professionals in the field, and discussed career opportunities beyond high school in these areas.



### Upcoming College Visits:

1. Buffalo State University - 11/12/24
2. Daemen University - 12/3/24
3. Canisius University - TBD
4. Northland Workforce Training Center - TBD

All permission slips can be found in the Counseling Center.

### Looking Ahead...

On December 5 during first period, a presentation will be held to discuss the career and technical education programs available through Erie 1 BOCES. These programs are open to students as part of their junior and senior year curriculum. All current 10th-grade students are required to attend this informative presentation.

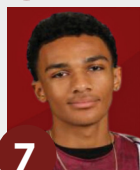
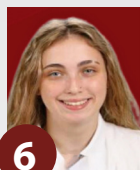
From December 9 to 17, counselors will be presenting in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade English classes. They will cover important topics such as graduation requirements, volunteer opportunities, and course request information for the 2025-2026 school year.





## Class of 2024 Top 10

1. **Ian Curr**  
College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
Major: Environmental Biology
2. **Bao-Huy Pham**  
University of Michigan  
Major: Architecture
3. **Khadija-Tun Nabeeha**  
University at Buffalo  
Major: Biomedical Sciences & Philosophy
4. **Brennan Pham**  
University at Buffalo  
Major: Biology
5. **Lea Lucas**  
University at Buffalo  
Major: Business Administration
6. **Jenna Berg**  
Daemen University  
Major: Physical Therapy
7. **Daniel Richardson**  
University at Buffalo  
Major: Dentistry
8. **Farajana Hussain**  
University at Buffalo  
Major: Early Childhood Education
9. **Jonathan Douglass**  
Roberts Wesleyan College  
Major: Music
10. **Tan Nguyen**  
University at Buffalo  
Major: : Film Making



# Cheektowaga Central High School

## Cheektowaga Central High School welcomes New Teachers



Ms. Maggiore is excited to start her teaching career at Cheektowaga Central. She was born and raised in Western New York, and earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University at Buffalo. With a lifelong love for science, she is eager to share the wonders of biology with her students. In her free time, she enjoys rock climbing, camping, and reading.



Mrs. Gates is excited to return to the classroom. A graduate of the University at Buffalo's School of Management, she previously taught at Clarence High School before embarking on a successful career in the private sector. When asked why she chose to return to teaching, Mrs. Gates explained, "My passion has always been working with kids. I'm eager to share my extensive knowledge in finance, entrepreneurship, and digital technology with the students of the Cheektowaga Central School District and to help them realize that anything is possible."



Ms. Gilbert is thrilled to join the Cheektowaga Central community. Her connection to Central began during her student teaching semester at the high school, where she fell in love with the vibrant environment. Born in the City of Tonawanda, she attended Tonawanda High School, where she first discovered her passion for English. Ms. Gilbert continued her education at Buffalo State University, majoring in English education and earning her bachelor's degree while captaining the cheerleading team.

In her classroom, Ms. Gilbert centers each lesson around student voice and choice. Expect to see dynamic projects, engaged students, and a strong sense of community. She embraces inquiry-based learning, using literature as a tool to help students understand and interpret the world. With over 15 years as a cheerleader and currently coaching the varsity cheer team at her alma mater, Ms. Gilbert brings a passion for motivation and support into her teaching, committed to inspiring and uplifting her students every day.



Ms. McClaine is thrilled to join the Cheektowaga Chargers family. With an extensive background in health and physical education, she is excited to guide students on their journey through high school while providing hands-on life skills to engage them in her classes. Ms. McClaine completed both her undergraduate and graduate work at SUNY Brockport and earned an additional advanced certificate from SUNY Erie.

She strives to provide hands-on experiences that help students gain a greater understanding of their physical, mental, emotional, social, environmental, and spiritual health. Ms. McClaine's health education classes are designed to influence multiple outcomes, while encouraging and empowering students to learn new skills that will help them make healthy choices beyond the realm of Cheektowaga Central High School.

The majestic charger represents independence, freedom, nobleness, endurance, confidence, triumph, heroism, and competition. Understanding what a "charger" stands for makes Ms. McClaine even more excited to stand tall and proud as part of a united family while wearing Cheektowaga Chargers gear. She is honored to be a Cheektowaga Charger!



Mrs. Petschke is looking forward to becoming part of the Cheektowaga Central family. A graduate of SUNY Cortland and SUNY Brockport, she has also resided and studied in Spain. Mrs. Petschke has taught Spanish from elementary school through high school and has organized student trips, traveling abroad with students to Spain, France, and Mexico.

Outside of the classroom, she is a former competitive equestrian, loves training animals, and is an avid landscape gardener. Mrs. Petschke enjoys learning, exercising, skiing, hiking, biking, traveling, snowmobiling, and more. She looks forward to getting to know her students and working with CCSD colleagues, believing that "working together, everyone achieves more."

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# Cheektowaga Central High School

## Rotations Friday Empowers Students for a Great School Year

Each year, we hold a “Rotations Day” on the first Friday of the school year. During this day, all students rotate through various presentations and activities with the ultimate goal of learning what it takes to have a successful school year and what resources we offer to help them get there. The day also includes several cooperative games and team-building activities to foster positive relationships within our learning community. The rotation topics are as follows:

1. Grade Specific Guidance Presentations → Counseling Staff
2. Pictures, Heights, and Weights → Physical Education Department
3. Graduation Requirements and Team Building → Mrs. Cyganovich
4. Social Media Presentation → Officer Landahl
5. High School Expectations → Mr. Hanford and Mr. Strzelec
6. Alumni Panel → Recent Graduates
7. Cooperative Games → Mr. Parisi and Mr. Huber
8. Poster Painting For Homecoming Week
9. Picnic Lunch → Mr. Feagin and Mr. Sedor on the grill with assistance from Personal Touch Food Service
10. Stadium “Free Time”



Stadium Time



Social media presentation lead by Officer Landahl



Poster Painting



Team Building Activities



Alumni Panel



High school expectations presentation lead by Assistant Principal Strzelec



Grade Specific Guidance Presentations

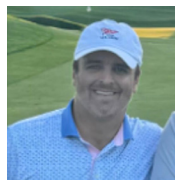
## Cheektowaga Central High School welcomes New Teachers

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Mrs. Vahratian spent 11 years teaching in Maryland and Michigan before returning to her hometown in Western New York. She spent the past year at home with her son, who will celebrate his first birthday this month. Mrs. Vahratian holds a bachelor's degree in social studies education from SUNY Fredonia and a master's degree in the same area from Buffalo State.

A huge fan of the arts, she works part-time as a house manager at the Theater of Youth in Allentown. Mrs. Vahratian is excited to be teaching seniors in economics and government at Cheektowaga Central.



Mr. Coburn is excited to join the Cheektowaga Chargers family. Born and raised in Cheektowaga, he is a graduate of Depew High School. Mr. Coburn brings eight years of educational experience, along with a lot of energy and passion, to the school. He graduated from Buffalo State University with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a master's degree in special education after starting his college journey at D'Youville College, where he played Division III basketball.

He also has years of coaching experience. Mr. Coburn's passion for coaching and teaching provides him with a strong foundation for education, and he looks forward to becoming very involved in the district.



## WNY College Consortium

During fifth period on October 17, juniors and seniors were given the opportunity to meet and speak with 19 local college representatives that set up table displays in the high school gym.



## Volunteering Opportunities

Each high school student is required to complete a total of 20 hours of logged community service to graduate. Cheektowaga Central High School has partnered this year with Meals on Wheels and FeedMore WNY, allowing students the opportunity to earn service hours during the school day.



*Ethan and Jayden during the FeedMore WNY Food Bank October visit.*

Every Wednesday, two students from Cheektowaga Central High School deliver meals to those in need through Meals on Wheels. This experience not only supports the community but also allows students to earn one hour of volunteer service for each outing.



*Tiovanni and Maurice during the FeedMore WNY Food Bank October visit.*

Additionally, students can participate in a monthly outing to the FeedMore WNY Food Bank, where they assist with packaging and sorting tasks that directly benefit our community. Time spent at the food bank earns students two hours of volunteer service.

To participate in these outings, students need a signed permission slip, which covers the entire school year. Permission slips are available in the Counseling Center.

Students can also find additional community service opportunities posted in their class-level Google Classrooms, which are updated frequently.

## Cheektowaga Central High School

# Homecoming Week

The high school rounded out September with Homecoming Week. Students had the chance to vote on which spirit days they wanted to participate in, leading to strong engagement from both students and staff on days such as Decades Day, Mean Girls Day (wear pink), and Duo/Squad Day.

As always, the fall pep rally was the culminating event of Homecoming Week. Students voted and chose to hold it outside on the turf. Games, activities, and even some rock-paper-scissors matches brought smiles and excitement to both students and staff. The rock-paper-scissors tournament took place in the hallways throughout the week, with the most successful students competing on the field during the pep rally. Mr. Hanford took the crown this year and will be ready to defend his title again next year.

As with the rest of Homecoming Week, the Student Council, led by Ms. Smith and Mr. Huber, organized a memorable party in the parking lot prior to the homecoming football game. Students had the opportunity to dance, eat, and play games with friends to unwind after a fun-packed week.

The week concluded with the annual Homecoming Dance, where students dressed their best, showed off their dance moves, and made memories with friends to close out Homecoming 2024.



*Decades Day*



*Mean Girls (Wear Pink) Day*



*Rock-Paper-Scissors Competition*



*Musical Chairs*



*Tug of War*



*Students dancing at the Homecoming Dance.*



*Students dancing during Party in the Parking Lot.*



*Homecoming*



*Game time during Party in the Parking Lot.*



# Unified Sports

## Understanding Unified Sports

Unified Sports® is a registered program of Special Olympics that combines approximately equal numbers of athletes with and without intellectual disability on sports teams for training and competition. All Unified Sports® players, both athletes and special partners, are of similar age and matched sport skill ability. Unified Sports® teams are placed in competitive divisions based on their skill abilities, and range from training divisions (with a skill-learning focus) to high level competition. Besides providing a similar competitive experience to regular school interscholastic sport opportunities players will also gain physical fitness, develop friendships and demonstrate appreciation and respect for each other both on and off the playing field.

Project unify is made up of three main components:

1. **Inclusive Sports** combines athletes (players with intellectual disabilities) and athletes to create athletic teams for training and competition. Participation is rooted in the principle of meaningful involvement which ensures that every player is given an opportunity to contribute to the success of his or her team through their unique skills. Inclusive activity is among the most conducive ways to break down stereotypes and foster relationships.
2. **Youth Leadership & Advocacy** provides students with and without intellectual disabilities opportunities to take on leadership roles in promoting Project Unify activities in their schools and in their communities. Our school has participated the entire month of February in spreading the word to end the R word. We showed

videos and hung posters throughout the month to encourage students to stop using the 'R' word. On March 1st students had the opportunity to pledge to end using the 'R' word.

3. **Whole-School Engagement** provides opportunities for all students to participate in school-wide campaigns and activities such as Fans in the Stands, Pledge and Plunge, and the R-word Campaign. We will be hosting senior night for our athletes and a teacher appreciation night to encourage more staff to come out and watch our basketball team.

We are excited to have unified basketball here at CCHS and look forward to seeing your student on the court.

## Unified Leadership

In an inspiring achievement for the Cheektowaga community, students Angelo Sanetick and Victoria Deane have been selected to represent Cheektowaga, Western New York, the ECIC league, and Section IV as ambassadors for Special Olympics North America. This prestigious opportunity comes as a testament to their unwavering dedication and passion for inclusivity and support for their peers.

When the chance to apply as a pair for this ambassador program arose, it was clear to their mentors that Angelo and Victoria were the perfect candidates. Their application process involved a written submission and a video interview, where they showcased their genuine love for all and their commitment to making a positive impact in the community.

Angelo has been a cornerstone of the Unified Sports programs at Cheektowaga Central for the past four years. His involvement spans three traditional Special Olympic training clubs, and he has played a crucial role in the Unified Bocce, Bowling, and Basketball teams. A natural leader, Angelo is always the first to volunteer for setup and takedown of equipment, and he actively participates in corporate and fundraising events for Special Olympics.

Victoria, meanwhile, has also demonstrated remarkable leadership and commitment through her involvement in the Unified Leadership Program for the past two years. Since her journey began in eighth grade, she has made significant contributions to the Young Athletes Program, Bowling Team, and Basketball Team. Victoria's dedication extends beyond athletics; she has volunteered her time at disability awareness events and has helped teach students in a functional music class, sharing her passion for music by guiding them in a drum corps setting.

Both Angelo and Victoria embody the spirit of the Special Olympics, championing the values of inclusion, respect, and community. Their selection as ambassadors not only highlights their individual accomplishments but also reflects the strong sense of community and support that defines Cheektowaga.

As they embark on this exciting new journey, Angelo and Victoria will serve as role models and advocates for individuals with disabilities, inspiring others to embrace the values of compassion, kindness, and inclusion. Their efforts will undoubtedly make a lasting impact on both the local and broader Special Olympics community.

Congratulations to Angelo Sanetick and Victoria Deane on this well-deserved recognition.



Congratulations to Angelo (right) and Victoria (left) who were chosen as Youth Ambassadors for Special Olympics North America.

# Chargers Training Club: Special Olympics Traditional Bocce



## Introducing Our New Special Olympics Training Club

This year, the Unified Leadership program will establish their traditional Special Olympic training club. This decision stemmed from two main goals:

1. Provide an opportunity for all students with disabilities to be able to train and compete in various events and not worry about the game atmosphere. The goal is to get more athletes signed up with Special Olympics so they can continue training after high school. Our students currently train once a week during 9th period.
2. The ability to offer both our students and staff the chance to become volunteer coaches. We will provide comprehensive coaching training, along with sport-specific training, for anyone interested in assisting during our training sessions.

This year we will be offering a range of sports, including bocce, swim, floorball, snow shoeing, basketball, and track and field.

If you have a student interested in volunteering please have them reach out to Mr. Pane or Mrs. Abrams.



# Athletics

## Fall Highlights

There has been a lot of action in the Athletic Department this fall season. Below are a few highlights from September and October. Teams are currently gearing up for playoffs and they hope to put together a strong showing at the end of the season.

### Girls Volleyball

Senior Leci Alvira served 14 straight points in the Starpoint Tournament, which ties her personal record, and Ava Derenda was awarded to the All-Tournament Team and leads our team in kills.



### Boys Volleyball

Mason Lexner had a tremendous performance against Williamsville North with 34 kills.

### Boys Soccer

Stephen Kungu scored the game winning goal against Eden and currently is tied for the team lead in goals. Jacob Malkowski kept back to back shutouts in goal against Depew and Eden.



### Football

Senior Dimond Wakefield had a phenomenal performance in a recent game vs. Iroquois where he had 5 receptions for 93 yards. Defensively he had 4 tackles and 2 forced fumbles and on special teams he ran back a kickoff 79 yards for a TD.

### Swimming

The Lady Chargers sent eight swimmers to ECIC's in early October.



## Community Corner

The Western New York



**Need Help Making Ends Meet  
at the Holidays?**

# The WNY Holiday Partnership is here!

Families who meet the income guidelines can receive toys and gifts for their children 12 and younger.

### Application Intake

Union East Elementary School  
Thursday, November 21, 4:30-7:30pm  
Friday, November 22, 8-11:30am

### Resurrection Life Food Pantry

2145 Old Union Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

**November 5 thru December 12, 2024**  
(Closed November 18-22)

**Tuesdays: 10am-12pm**  
**Thursdays: 10am-12pm, 6-7pm**

Please call 211 for additional information,  
documentation requirements and alternative locations.

Community donations to Toys for Tots Buffalo  
support the WNY Holiday Partnership.

The WNY Holiday Partnership is a collaboration of nonprofits,  
The Buffalo News, Wegmans and the USMC Toys for Tots.



## Cheektowaga Youth Engaged in Service (Y.E.S.) Program

Middle and high school students are invited to help make a difference in the Cheektowaga community! The Cheektowaga Y.E.S. Program offers a variety of activities for teens to assist with:

1. Leading themed children's craft night events
2. Cooking meals for families staying at the Grace Guest House while loved ones are in the hospital
3. Packing groceries at the St. Stephen's Food Pantry
4. Inspiring future engineers at Lego Club
5. And so much more

Y.E.S. also offers bi-monthly workshops such as resume writing and interview skills 101, and healthy cooking classes for teens to learn new skills and better themselves; as well as social events to build camaraderie and nurture friendships. Before getting started, volunteers need to attend a mandatory orientation session. For more information or to sign up, call (716) 897-7207 ext. 6655 or visit [www.CheektowagaYES.org](http://www.CheektowagaYES.org).

## Now Hiring in Cheektowaga

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Journeys (Galleria Mall) | 5. Panera Bread                         |
| 2. Kohls                    | 6. Taco Bell                            |
| 3. McDonald's               | 7. The Children's Place (Galleria Mall) |
| 4. Olive Garden             | 8. Walmart                              |

You must be 16 years or older to apply. If you are interested in working at any of the above locations, please contact them directly to complete the application.

## Cheektowaga Community Hub

The Cheektowaga Community Hub offers supportive services that include, but are not limited to, employment and training opportunities, utility assistance, legal aid, healthcare, housing assistance (eviction/foreclosure), and counseling (mental wellness/ substance recovery). For more information email [CheektowagaHub@gmail.com](mailto:CheektowagaHub@gmail.com) or call (716) 710-9098. The Cheektowaga Community Hub operates the first and third Tuesday from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at 2145 Old Union, Cheektowaga, NY 14225.

Scan to view a variety of resources available to the Cheektowaga Community.

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