



FULTON IN TOUCH

FULTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023 GRADUATION NEWSLETTER

Congratulations Class of 2023!



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GRB Honors Top-Achieving Seniors with High Honor Graduate Banquet



Fulton's G. Ray Bodley High School recently honored its graduating seniors with its annual High Honor Graduate Banquet, formally recognizing those completing high school with an overall average of 90 or above.

On June 7, students and families gathered together in the GRB gymnasium for a delicious catered meal. The dinner was in honor of graduating Fulton students achieving magna cum laude (GPA of 90 to 94.999) and summa cum laude (GPA of 95

or above). Seventy-seven students were honored in all, with each receiving a special pin to be worn with their cap and gown at graduation.

After dinner, the event invited Aryelle Barbagallo to speak as an honored guest. Barbagallo is a former graduate of GRB, honored as the valedictorian of her class in 2017. She spoke on the importance of perseverance and priorities as students move into the next chapter of their lives.

"Focus on what's really going to matter," she encouraged graduates while sharing some of her own struggles and successes in earning a Ph.D. from Nazareth College.

The evening was hosted by school Principal Nathan Murray and Assistant Principals Tracy Richards and Amy Stephenson. The meal was catered by Kristen's Kitchen at Battle Island, with three cookie cakes from Kathy's Cakes in Fulton.

SENIOR WALK VISITS FAIRGRIEVE ELEMENTARY

Fairgrieve students gave our graduates a warm "welcome back" as they returned to their old stomping grounds during the annual senior walk. Graduates toured the halls and visited with former teachers, receiving words of praise and encouragement from current elementary students.





Volney Elementary Earth Day Celebrations Get Wild with Exciting Experiences

While most honor Earth Day in April, Fulton's Volney Elementary School has a long history of an exciting annual celebration each May. This year, they honored the 29-year tradition with a day full of presentations, hands-on experiences, and outdoor activities.

On Friday, May 19, students at Volney Elementary began their day with a morning assembly where students previewed the day ahead and sang several Volney Earth Day songs as old as the tradition itself. With spirits high, building Principal Elizabeth Stoddard then introduced Daniel Oostdyk of G&G Animals in Oswego as the first presenter of the day. Oostdyk, an animal rehabilitator, wowed students with everything from tortoises and lizards to a chinchilla, a porcupine, and a massive Burmese python.

From there, students spread out around the school campus for a fun-filled day of unique, small-group presentations and activities from nearly two dozen individuals and outside groups. Sessions included such diverse topics as animal tracking, caring for birds, pollinators, dog training, bats, and electrical safety. Each was intended to give students hands-on learning



Daniel Oostdyk of G&G Animals in Oswego shows off a tortoise to excited Volney Elementary students.



and activities meant to inspire interest in nature, conservation and the natural sciences.

With so many exciting opportunities, students were divided on which was their favorite.

"The big snakes!" said fifth-grader Chandler Remp. "I used to have a bearded dragon and I have a ball python right now."

Ava Thurlow, another fifth-grader, disagreed. "Definitely the dogs. I think it's just so cool how passionate they are about what they know," she said, referring to an elaborate dog agility course set up outside the school.

The program was first developed by Volney teachers and staff in the 1990s. Though now retired, many of the original organizers return to volunteer each year and ensure the continuation of the tradition. Even Popeye, a beautiful blue and yellow parrot, still makes his annual appearance to teach students about birds.

Both students and organizers eagerly look forward to next May, which will mark three decades of the event.

Congratulations to our retirees!

Katherine Adams

Director of Special Instructional Programs & Pupil Services

Gail Blum Teaching Assistant

Laurie Brunschweiger Teaching Assistant

Victoria Cole Sr. Account Clerk Typist

Elmer Crump

Director of Facilities, Operations & Transportation

Carlo Cuccaro School Psychologist

Terri Fox Cook Manager

Mary Franco Teacher Aide

George Heer Sr. Grounds Worker

Sandra Motyka Business Teacher

Cheryl Natoli Teaching Assistant

Donna Parkhurst High School Principal

Stanley Perkins Maintenance Supervisor

Lois Proietto Teacher Aide

Anne Roberts Special Education Teacher

Jean Sampsell Elementary Principal

Susan Scerbo Clerk

Gracia Thompson Special Education Teacher

Nancy Thurlow Typist

Judith Westerbeck Clerk

Michelle Wojdyla Teacher Aide



FULTON IN TOUCH



Granby Students Show Off their Engineering Skills on Hovercrafts

Fifth-grade students across FCSD had the opportunity this spring to work with Matthew Chase of The Hovercraft Project Inc. to build and test their own air-cushion "hovercraft" vehicles. Shown here, students at Granby Elementary test drive their new craft, benefiting from a hard day's work — with lots of collaboration and critical thinking along the way.

SUMMA CUM LAUDE GRADUATES

Students earning the honor of summa cum laude have maintained a four-year, cumulative GPA of 95.000 and above.

Megan Acker	Ava Demars	Katelyn Hartman	Miranda Laws	Olivia Metcalf	Leah Rowlee
Ryan Carroll	Ethan Demars	Trevor Hendrickson	Reagan Lunn	Iz Moxley	Emily Seale
Sabrina Carvey	Braeden DePoint	Myah Jones	Riley Lunn	Bryce Noel	Ryley Spilman
Teddy Clayton Jr.	Raleigh Drake	Riley Storrs	Harper McClave	William Patterson V	Elle Stafford
Sam Cotton	Tanner Emmons	Rose LaDue	Kayla McCraith	Alexis Pettit	Shayla Sykes
Madelyn Delano	Meghan Galvin	Mali Lamanna	Kyra Merritt	Bryce Rogers	Laura-Anne Vayo

MAGNA CUM LAUDE GRADUATES

Students earning the honor of magna cum laude have maintained a four-year, cumulative GPA of 90.000 to 94.999.

Madison Baum	Nickolas Gartner	Emma Longley	José Pascual Lopez	Talia Trombino
Izabella Bogardus	Linda Hartmann	Brenda Longok	Jack Phillips	Elijah Turner
Luz de Luna Catano-Matip	Kelly Hayden	Jocelyn Loomis	Camilla Piano	Ethan Weaver
Jordan Cavalier	Ashley Huller	Lauralei Luther	Addison Pickard	Joshua Wilcox
Alexander Crisafulli	Cory Hyman	Danielle Mackey	Dykel Ruscitto	Sean Wright
Gracie Dempsey	Nathan Jackowski	Kaeli McCarthy	Sydney Sachel	
Mariflor Diaz-Perez	Amber Jackson	Trae Mitchell	Maddison Schlosser	
Matthew Duell	Chasity-Mari LeClair	Samantha Moon	Hayden Shear	
Melody Dunham	Sutter Lewin	Connor Nugent	Brodie Snyder	

CUM LAUDE GRADUATES

Students earning the honor of cum laude have maintained a four-year, cumulative GPA of 85.000 to 89.999.

Jarret Austin	Simon Bradshaw	Lauren Diak	Shane Hughes	John McCauliffe III	Donay Whaley
Raven Beedy	Colton Chapman	Yoni Domingo Jimenez	Rhyle Humphrey	Tyler Mills	Tyler Wilson
Mackenzie Bennett	Carlee Chappell	Alexis Durval	Caitlin Johnson	Riley Reitz	Logan Witkovsky
Ava Blasczienski	Grace Clary	Cassidy Duso	Naomi Johnson	Meadow Waterhouse	
Ashlyn Bonnell	Aidan Collins-Wheeler	Madison Hotchkiss	Daniel Ligoci	Peyton Wells	

"You belong here. It is safe to speak up here. What we do is important."



Junior High students speak with professionals from a number of local organizations during a career fair held this spring.

Fulton Students Look to Futures at Junior High Career Fair

Fulton students in grades six through eight gathered recently in the Junior High gymnasium for the school's first Career and College Fair.

Though similar events have been coordinated for high school students, this was the first to appeal specifically to the younger age group. Angela Ferlito, the district's Work-Based Learning coordinator and one of the event's co-organizers, noted that distinction is important.

"Once they get to high school," she said, "they'll have a better understanding of the classes and programs they should consider to boost their skills and employability after graduation. Beginning (career) exploration before high school allows students more time to focus on the endless possibilities for their future."

Throughout the day, middle school students were able to interact with representatives from 15 local businesses, various branches of the armed services, a community college, and several high school educational programs. Students were encouraged to explore via a scavenger hunt, which allowed them to further engage with presenters and question them about their own careers and the roles of their organizations.

"I work with the sixth-grade students on career exploration and life skills," said Laura Bliss, sixth-grade counselor and the second co-organizer of the event. "They are already thinking about their future and what kind of career pathway would make them happy later in life. Giving them the opportunity to begin speaking with people in many different types of industry is valuable. It works together with the exploration they have done all year and helps them further narrow down a life path."

Students enjoyed the event, and many said it was fun to work their way through the presenter scavenger hunt. Ferlito and Bliss considered the event a great success and look forward to planning similar events in future years.



Lanigan Celebrates Doughnuts with your Grownups!

Lanigan students recently invited their grownups to school for some tasty morning treats! Thanks to the many families who attended!





Fulton City School District

FCSD District Offices
129 Curtis St.
Fulton, New York 13069

Board Members:

Robbin Griffin, *President*
Brenda Abalgore, *Vice President*
Tim Conners
Tim Crandell
Dave Cordone, *CiTi Board Representative*
Jennifer Mainville
Jessica Pappalardo
Mali Lamanna, *Student Representative*

District Administration:

Brian Pulvino, *Superintendent*
Geri Geitner, *Deputy Superintendent*
Dominick Lisi, *Chief of Operations and Innovation*
Marc Copani, *Director of Human Resources*

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From the Desk of the Superintendent

Dear FCSD Families & Community Members,

As we conclude the 2022-23 school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of our students, staff and school district. It is truly an honor and privilege to serve the families, students, and every person in our Fulton City School District learning community. I extend heartfelt thanks to our Board of Education, administrative leadership team, faculty, staff and community partners for your hard work, collaboration and commitment to our students and district. Your efforts make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of our students.

All of our stakeholders supported one another and worked together to provide comprehensive academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support to address the wide ranging needs of every student every day. We made progress toward our goals and we will continue to monitor and adjust to most efficiently and effectively support our students and families. This was truly a year where our entire community demonstrated an unmatched ability to be strong for and dedicated to one another. We placed significant emphasis on the beliefs that — you belong here; it is safe to speak up here; and what we do is important. When I reflect on this school year we strived for and lived these beliefs each and every day.

I would like to thank all members of our school district community who participated in the May 16th budget vote, school board election, and support of all propositions including the \$20 million Capital Improvement Project which involves work at all schools. The budget provides the foundation on which all opportunities are built for our students. Your support is greatly appreciated!

As you are aware, the Fulton City School District has been working to address the NYS Education Department directive to design new logos and branding for our school district. This presents an exciting opportunity to collectively create an enduring and unconditionally positive identity for our school district that promotes a sense of belonging, safety and purpose for all. Thank you to the FCSD Stakeholder Advisory Mascot/Logo/Branding Committee and our FCSD Student School Culture Team of 4th-12th graders who provided insight and feedback. On June 27, 2023 the final survey results, completed by our 4th-12th grade students, were shared with the Board of Education with the result being "Red Dragons." The work that has been accomplished to address this required change has been difficult and emotional for all throughout the process, but also valuable and impactful. The next step in the process will be to solicit ideas from all interested students to assist with the design of the logo. We will continue to work with the FCSD Advisory Logo/Mascot/Branding Committee and the 4th-12th grade Student

School Culture Team as advisors throughout the process, which will go into the Fall of 2023.

Our FCSD capital project work also continues this summer, including GRB unit ventilators, GRB casework in classrooms associated with ventilation systems, Lanigan Boiler, and HVAC work at the GRB. Highlights of work completed in 2022-23 include fire alarm upgrades at Granby, GRB, and Lanigan schools, track and field renovations, hand rails and step adjustments in the main bleachers at the Athletic Complex, and HVAC upgrades gym and Library Media Center at GRB. Planning is well underway for the recently-approved Capital Project. We anticipate work beginning in the 2023-24 school year following required state approvals, award of the bidded contracts, and determination of schedules.

With high levels of student learning as our goal, we are preparing for a 2023-24 school year that will provide even more new opportunities, renewed energy, and endless possibilities for success in teaching and learning! This includes reviewing our health, safety and security protocols and procedures across the school district. We will continue to maintain our focus on our Strategic Coherence Plan to ensure long-term sustainability and capacity to meet the changing needs of all students. Please be on the lookout for opportunities for input as we work this Fall to adjust and extend our Strategic Coherence Plan through 2028 to guide the future direction of our district and the educational journey of our students.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! This graduating class has so many firsts to be proud of including over 150 students receiving the NYSED Seal of Civic Readiness (the first school in our county and one of a few in the region offering this opportunity), the highest number of students completing the National WorkKeys certifications (only school in the county and in the region offering this opportunity), and the highest percentage of students able to share defined next steps for their careers, college, or combination! As this group of talented students moves on to the next chapter, always remember "let's be here and there for one another!"

In closing, thank you again for a school year marked by many great accomplishments, growth and positive connections for our students. This community's resilience continues to be a great strength. I hope each of you and your families have a safe, fun-filled and healthy summer.

Respectfully,

Brian T. Pulvino, Superintendent