

Webster in the Path of Total Eclipse!

Where will you be when Webster looks up?

Mark your calendars because a celestial event of a lifetime is heading our way! On April 8, Western New Yorkers will have the incredible opportunity to witness a total solar eclipse. This is no ordinary event – it is a momentous spectacle that offers both educational and awe-inspiring experiences for people of all ages, especially our students. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity as the last solar eclipse that Rochester was able to view in totality was in 1925 and the next will be in 120 years on October 26, 2144!

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the Earth and the sun, casting a shadow on our planet. During a total solar eclipse, the moon completely covers the sun, turning day into night for a few minutes. The sky darkens, temperatures drop, and the sun's corona (its outer atmosphere) becomes visible. It's a breathtaking sight and a testament to the precision of our solar system.

The eclipse will happen gradually between 2:00 and 4:30 p.m., but the sun will be completely obstructed by the moon for almost four minutes.

Caution needs to be exercised during an eclipse as the sun's rays can damage your eyes. In order to be safe, eclipse glasses, or viewers, need to be used. These are NOT regular sunglasses but are thousands of times darker. Please remember, **DO NOT LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN** without the aid of eclipse glasses.

Prior to the eclipse, you may want to choose a viewing location. Look for an area that has clear sightlines to the south and southwest. Trees and buildings will block your view. Consider your yard or an open field in one of Webster's numerous parks. Totality will occur at approximately 3:20 p.m., so preview your location at that time. As a note for planning, the area has the potential for hundreds of thousands of visitors! Traffic may be congested with so many travelers.

One Webster

Students First. District Proud.

Webster Central School District - Spring 2023-24





Superintendent Neenan and other special guests were on hand for the installation of the new bookcases made by the Webster Schroeder High School GeoTech students for the Friends of the Webster Public Library.

From the Superintendent

Dear One Webster Community,

The second half of the school year is well underway and our students are as busy as ever! March is an especially exciting time for our student artists and musicians as Webster CSD joins districts across the nation to celebrate Music In Our Schools/Youth Art Month. There are so many concerts and events to enjoy so be sure to visit our website calendar at websterschools.org so you don't miss a thing! You can also catch the highlights of Music In Our Schools/Youth Art Month by following us on social media, Facebook (@WebsterCentralSchools) and X, formerly Twitter (@WCSDProud).

While we spend the entire month of March celebrating the fine arts in our schools, April also includes a perfect opportunity to see our students' talents on display and celebrate the creativity of our community. You are invited to Webster Central PTSA's Community Arts Day (CAD) on Saturday, April 13. This highly anticipated annual event will be held at Webster Schroeder High School, 875 Ridge Road, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CAD features our talented students and also artists and vendors from the One Webster community. There are demonstrations, performances, games, and delicious food for all to enjoy. This special day wouldn't be possible without an army of PTSA, district, and community volunteers; we're thankful for all of them! We hope to see you on April 13.

Webster CSD is also preparing the proposed 2024-25 budget to be voted on by our community on Tuesday, May 21. When we reach out to you again in early May, detailed information regarding the proposed spending plan and board of education candidates will be shared. There will also be upcoming budget information forums and our budget website will be regularly updated with important details about the proposed spending plan at websterschools.org/budget.

Thanks so much for spending a few minutes to read all about our school district in this spring issue of the community newsletter. Happy spring!

All my best,

Brian Neenan

Superintendent of Schools



Winter Sports Roundup

Lakers Alpine Ski - **Blake Preston**, Section V Overall Champion.

Warriors Indoor Track - Section V Class A1 Champions:

Corintia G. (pictured at right) - NYS Indoor and Section V record holder/champ and 8th US High School All Time for triple jump with her 43'3" jump, also Section V long jump champ and member of 4x200m relay championships; **Rebecca S.** - Section V 600m & 4x200m relay champion; **Kevin B.** - Section V 55m hurdles champion; **Jordan S.** - Section V 4x200m relay champion; and **Lauren Curry-W.** - Section V 4x200m relay champion.



Warriors Wrestling - **Jackson H.**, Section V Class A2 108 lbs champion.

Titans Cheerleading - Section V Class B Champions.

Titans Indoor Track- **Jane C.** Section V Class A1 shot put champion.

Titans Wrestling - Division 2 League Champions; **Neil Cook** - Coach of the Year; **Kieran H.** - Sportsmanship Award; and **Dom B.** - Section V Class A1 215 lb champion.



The Webster Lakers girls ice hockey team celebrates the program's first-ever goal in competition, scored by **Jessica N.** in the first period of the season opener against Section IV's Ithaca. The team made NYS high school sports history by being the first girls hockey team to compete in Section V. While they lost in overtime in regional competition against KenGiPort, they recorded a great first season.

Webster Athletic Booster Organization

Webster Athletic Booster Organization (WABO) supports and enhances the district's interscholastic athletic program. For more information, please contact **Shawn Strege**, Webster Schroeder Director of Physical Education and Athletics, at 670-5230, or **Steve LaMonica**, Webster Thomas Director of Physical Education and Athletics, at 670-8065.

The district is privileged to have the financial support of many outside organizations including the Webster Athletic Booster Organization. These outside organizations are not subject to the district's financial oversight and are completely independent. The district makes no representations regarding the financial controls in place for these private organizations.

Names in the News

Webster CSD was well represented at this year's **Shared Spaces** exhibit at Nazareth College's Arts Center, February 9-March 10. This biennial show allows local artist teachers to submit one work of a chosen student alongside a work of their own, celebrating the unique apprenticeship process that occurs between teacher and student. This year One Webster exhibiting artists were Webster Thomas students (with teachers) **Carson H. (Kat Harrison)**, **Jessica V. (Cathy Morrill Crockett)**, and **Gweneth T. (Todd Stahl)** and Webster Schroeder students (with teachers) **Gianna G. (Cate Zalewski)**, **Alexandra Z. (Danielle Zatkowsky)**, and **Corintia G. (Cheryl Simon)**.

Webster Schroeder High School students

Justin C., Michela M., Ava H., Max B., and Nathan C., and Webster



Thomas High School students **Charlotte S. and Max B.** (all pictured above) were selected to the **Hochstein Youth Wind Symphony**, a six-week program featuring wind, brass, and percussion players in grades 9-12 from throughout the Rochester area. The program culminated with concert at the Hochstein Performance Hall in downtown Rochester on February 10.

Webster Thomas High School vocal teacher **Kyle Sackett** (pictured right) was nominated in the **66th Annual Grammy Awards** as a member of the professional chamber choir The Crossing. They were nominated in the category of Best Choral Performance for their album "Carols after a Plague". Remarkably, this was The Crossing's ninth Grammy nomination in eight years and Kyle's third as a member of the group. The choir has won three times but Kyle wasn't part of those performances, so Webster CSD was really pulling for our local nominee to win. Unfortunately, it was not to be as "Saariaho: Reconnaissance" took home the trophy.



Webster CSD is proud to announce that two Webster Thomas High School students were selected to the **New York State School Music Association Conference All-State** in Rochester, held November 30-December 3. Selected from more than



Abby R.



Lauryn W.

5,000 auditions this past spring were Webster Thomas seniors **Abigail R.** (drum set) and **Lauryn W.** (Soprano 2). Chosen as an alternate was Webster Schroeder senior **Q_k J.** (tuba).



Webster CSD is proud to announce that **Danielle Carlsen** has been selected as the **2024 Central Western Zone Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year!** The State Road Elementary School PE teacher was chosen for the honor because of her dedication and passion teaching in the field of physical education at the elementary school level.

Petitions Available for BOE Candidates

The Webster CSD Budget Vote and Election of Candidates is Tuesday, May 21 at Webster Schroeder High School. Anyone wishing to run for the board may pick up a nominating packet from the district clerk's office, 119 South Avenue, Webster, weekdays, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Petitions must be returned to the district clerk's office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 22. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will each serve three-year terms beginning July 1.

Questions about candidacy or eligibility may be referred to District Clerk Heather Murphy at (585) 216-0001 or heather_murphy@webstercsd.org during the office hours noted above.

Important Dates to Remember

April 16 - Board of Education adopts budget to be put before voters, 6:00 p.m.

May 7 - Public hearing on proposed 2024-25 budget, 6:00 p.m.

May 21 - Webster CSD Budget Vote and Election of Candidates; polls open 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Webster Schroeder High School gym, 875 Ridge Road.

Absentee & Early Voter Ballot Applications

Beginning Tuesday, April 9, applications for absentee or early voter ballots for the Webster CSD Budget Vote and Election of Candidates will be available on the district website, www.websterschools.org, or from District Clerk Heather Murphy, 119 South Avenue, Webster, at (585) 216-0001 or heather_murphy@webstercsd.org.

All absentee and early voter ballot applications must be RECEIVED by the district clerk at least seven business days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be picked up personally by the voter.



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Local Business Professionals Share Expertise with Young Entrepreneurs

The Webster Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) continues to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of local business professionals.

On February 8, Webster high school students taking part in the program welcomed **John Gabriele** of Marina Autogroup, **Jerry Christopher** of State Farm Insurance, **Ben Austin** of West Herr New York, **Barry Howard** of the Webster Chamber of Commerce, **Lisa Schlonski** of Lala gift shop and boutique, and **Michael Oldfield** of M.O. Pasta to their annual CEO Roundtable Luncheon. These local professionals lunched with groups of students, sharing their expertise with them and answering their questions. The day concluded in a panel format in which the professionals shared their business stories with the students.

On March 21, students will take part in the annual Webster YEA! Investors Panel, to be held at Spry Middle School. Beginning at 6:00 p.m., the young entrepreneurs (roughly 35 students representing 20 businesses) will pitch their businesses in *Shark Tank*-style to a panel of investors, and Webster YEA! is looking for additional local businesses and persons to be the next Kevin O’Leary, Daymond John, or Barbara Corcoran for these budding entrepreneurs. Interested persons should contact program coordinator **Jim McEntee** at james_mcentee@webstercsd.org.

The Webster YEA! student(s) receiving the largest investment at the Investors Panel will advance to the finals of the YEA! Saunders Scholars Bright Ideas college scholarship competition to be held in June. There they will vie for one of three scholarship awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$30,000 to Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and an opportunity to display their product or service at Imagine RIT: Innovation Creativity Festival.

YEA! transforms students into real, confident entrepreneurs. Throughout the year-long program, Webster Schroeder and Webster Thomas high school students generate business ideas, conduct market research, and write business plans as they prepare to launch their businesses into the world.

Kindergarten Registration Open, Orientation Planned

Webster CSD kindergarten registration for the 2024-25 school year is open. Welcome to the Class of 2037!

Families with an incoming kindergartner may go to www.websterschools.org/registration to complete the 2024-25 registration completely online. Webster CSD encourages families to register early as it takes a substantial amount of time and planning for the appropriate number of students to be enrolled in each of our seven elementary schools. In the event that there is not enough space for your child to enroll at your home elementary school, registrations will be processed in the order in which they are received.

Kindergarten orientation takes place in each of the elementary schools this spring. Parents/guardians of incoming kindergartners please plan to attend the orientation taking place in your child’s building:

- DeWitt - Thursday, May 9, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- Klem North - Thursday, May 9, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- Klem South - Thursday, May 30, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Plank North - Tuesday, May 7, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- Plank South - Tuesday, May 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Schlegel & OWL - Monday, May 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- State - Thursday, April 11, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Community Invited to Celebrate Webster’s Creativity

Webster Central PTSA invites everyone to join them in celebrating the creativity of our community!

Save the date! Community Arts Day (CAD) is Saturday, April 13, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Webster Schroeder High School, 875 Ridge Road. Bring the entire family to enjoy performing groups, student art displays, craft vendors, artists, community group exhibits, the One Webster Inclusive Art Show, the talent show, refreshments, and so much more!

Visit their new web page, <https://www.websterptsa.org/committees/CAD>, to find information about becoming a CAD performance group, exhibitor, vendor, sponsor, volunteer, or planning committee member.