WEBSTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



WINTER **2025-26** 



## **Capital Project Update: Building Momentum this Winter!**

We are excited to share that Phase 1 of the Webster CSD Capital Project (approved in 2023) is officially wrapped up, marking a major milestone in our commitment to "Building Our Future" with zero tax impact. All contractors successfully completed their work over the summer and fall.

This winter and spring, we will continue to see visible progress as Phase 2 construction advances at Willink Middle School.

### Phase 1: Mission Accomplished!

The summer of 2025 saw the successful completion of three major, district-wide projects:

- **1. Elementary School Roof Replacement:** The final portion of the district-wide roof remediation project is now complete, closing out the contract and ensuring our elementary buildings are secure for years to come.
- **2. Webster Schroeder High School Ceilings and Lights:** This two-year project is finished! The first-floor corridors and locker rooms received brand new ceilings and energy-efficient LED lighting, greatly improving the learning environment. The new lighting system is a significant upgrade.
- **3. Site & Utility Work:** Critical utility upgrades, including the replacement of the water service at Spry Middle School and the complete reconstruction of the Webster Schroeder High School gym parking lot, are now finalized, enhancing safety and accessibility, including a new American Disabilities Act ramp at Door 33.

### Phase 2: Advancing at Willink Middle School

Our construction focus now shifts heavily to Willink Middle School, where major Phase 2 work is underway and on schedule for completion in fall 2026:

- **OWL Addition:** Foundation work for the new, permanent home of the One Webster Learning (OWL) Middle School Program began this fall, and as this newsletter went to press, erection of structural steel had begun. This is where the outline of the new facility will really start to take shape.
- **Interior Renovations:** Students and staff at Willink are already benefiting from completed upgrades, including the fully renovated main office (new ceilings, lights, and flooring) and the conversion





## WEBSTER MUSICALS SAVE THE DATE!







Construction of OWL Middle School.

of a second-floor room into two new staff bathrooms. The orchestra room also received a new drop ceiling that seamlessly integrated the existing sound panels.

### Looking Ahead: Phase 3 (Summer 2026)

While Phase 2 moves forward, planning is well underway for Phase 3, which is scheduled to kick off in the summer of 2026. This phase includes major enhancements across four of our buildings:

- **Webster Thomas High School:** Roof replacement/remediation, bathroom renovations, classroom upgrades, and track replacement.
- **Spry Middle School:** Classroom and bathroom renovations, plus general exterior improvements.
- Willink Middle School: Roof remediation.
- **Schroeder High School:** Gym mechanical and lighting improvements.

We look forward to providing more detailed updates on Phase 3 planning and design in our next newsletter! For more photos, detailed updates, and additional information about the Approved Capital Improvement Project 2023, be sure to visit the district website at www. websterschools.org/capitalproject.

### **Regarding ESSA**

New York State Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)-funded programs complaint procedures can be found online at https://www.nysed.gov/essa/new-york-state-essa-funded-programs-complaint-procedures.

### **Five National Merit Commended Students**

Webster CSD is proud to announce that five exceptional students have been named Commended Students in the highly competitive National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Congratulations to Webster Thomas High School's **Adam Carlin** and **Nathan Nguyen** and to Webster Schroeder High School's **Paolo Falbo, Sophia Klauck,** and **Joseph Schultz**.

More than 1.3 million juniors in about 20,000 high schools entered the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2024 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. In April, the National Merit Scholarship program identified the 50,000 highest scorers in the country. The top 16,000 are designated as semi-finalists while the remaining 34,000 of the highest scorers on the PSAT are designated as Commended Students.











Carlin Ng

Nguyen

Klauck

Schultz

## Plank South Teacher Earns Prestigious Fulbright Award

Plank Road South Elementary School librarian **Julianne Westrich** has been honored with a Fulbright U.S. Teacher Award. This prestigious award, given by the U.S. Department of State, recognizes Julianne as one of approximately 400 master teachers and administrators selected to participate in the Fulbright Teacher Exchanges program this year.

Julianne explained that she applied for the program to model lifelong learning and risk-taking for her students. She said, "I spend a lot of time encouraging kids to try hard things... it's a more powerful message if

they know I've felt that discomfort and struggle doing something that challenges me!"

Julianne is excited to collaborate with educators from across the U.S. and around the world through the Fulbright Teachers for Global Class-



Westrich

rooms program, an experience she hopes will help her integrate global perspectives into her students' learning.

## Webster Athletic Hall of Fame: Inaugural Class Celebration

Webster CSD is thrilled to announce the celebration of the inaugural class of the Webster Athletic Hall of Fame on Friday, January 2, 2026!

This first class includes pillars from across the decades of Webster athletics. Please join us in celebrating Kevin Akins, track, class of 1978; Chris Barnes, coach - girls lacrosse, class of 1984; Brian Bliss, soccer, class of 1983; Dave "Boots" Boutillier, track and cross country, class of 1988; Marc Carlton, swimming, class of 2000; Jim Cripps, football, basketball, track, class of 1961; Carl Garritano, football, baseball, class of 2003; Gregor Gillespie, wrestling, class of 2005; William J. "Bill" Guerrera, coach and administrator; Colleen C. Kelly, basketball, softball, soccer, class of 2002; Patrick J. Kelly II, football, basketball, lacrosse, class of 1983; Brian Kozlowski, football, class of 1988; Jim Kruze, coach girls soccer, cross country, track and field, class of 1967; Rachel Kruze, soccer, class of 1999; **Brenna Mason**, soccer, class of 2012; Linda McCoy, coach - field hockey, basketball, softball; Bill O'Rourke Jr., basketball - player, coach, class of 1968; Bill O'Rourke Sr., basketball - player, coach; Thomas

O'Rourke, basketball, class of 1970; Emily Resnick, lacrosse, class of 2015; Carrie Santore, gymnastics, class of 2000; Nina Scalzo, soccer, class of 2000; and Joseph Zaccardo, football, baseball, class of 2005.

The day's events begin with a ceremony for family and friends of the honorees at 3:30 p.m. The public is invited to the Webster Schroeder High School gym for varsity basketball games and the official induction. The evening kicks off with the varsity girls' basketball playing at 5:30 p.m. The inaugural class Webster Athletic Hall of Fame public induction and honoring will take place between games at 7:00 p.m. The celebration concludes with the varsity boys' basketball game starting immediately afterward.

The Webster Athletic Hall of Fame celebrates the rich athletic heritage of Webster public high schools. We recognize the exceptional achievements of athletes, coaches, administrators, and community members who have shaped winning traditions—be they Ridgemen, Lakers, Warriors, Titans, or Lions. Nominations to the Webster Athletic Hall of Fame are on-going. To learn more, please visit websterschools.org/athletichof.

# Important Dates & Deadlines for Webster CSD Families

**Young Children Census:** Help Webster CSD forecast enrollment by completing the brief Young Children Census.

- **Who:** Families residing in Webster CSD with children ages birth to 5 years old.
- Action: Complete the survey online at websterschools.org or https://forms.gle/g3uXurAv7NhTZRw4A.
- Deadline: January 6, 2026.
- **No Computer Access?** Call Student Registration at (585) 216-0029.

This census is a young family's first connection with the district and helps us keep in touch as your child approaches school age.

**Kindergarten Registration for 2026-27 School Year:** Registration for incoming kindergartners begins soon!

- **Eligibility:** Children who will be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2026.
- Start Date: January 26, 2026.
- **Details:** Check websterschools.org/registration for complete information.
- Note: Prompt registration is important. Families who register the week of January 26 get first priority for their neighborhood school if capacity is met.

## **PreK Lottery (2026-27 School Year):** Webster CSD offers a comprehensive

- Eligibility: Children who will be 4
  years old on or before December 1, 2026
- (and are not eligible for kindergarten).Application Availability: February

13-March 13

• **Learn More:** Visit websterschools.org/prek.

## Non-public School Transportation

**Deadline:** If your child is attending a private, parochial, or charter school in the 2026-27 school year, you must apply for transportation.

- **Requirement:** All students must first be registered with Webster CSD at websterschools.org/registration.
- **Action:** Fill out the annual transportation application at websterschools.org/transportation.
- **NYS Education Law Deadline:** Forms must be received no later than **April 1** of the preceding school year. A separate form is required for each child.
- **Contact:** For questions, call Webster CSD Transportation at (585) 265-3840.



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## Cincinnati Reds Analytics Manager Hits Home Run with Webster Stats Students

Students from Webster Schroeder and Webster Thomas high schools got a firsthand look at how data drives the world of professional sports during a special presentation on October 23. **Sean Fischer**, the manager of baseball analytics for the Cincinnati Reds, visited approximately 50 students from the schools' statistical reasoning in sports classes to share how his team uses data to improve player performance and make strategic decisions.



Sean Fischer

Fischer's visit provided a real-world connection for the students, who are learning the four-step statistical process: asking questions, collecting data, analyzing data, and drawing conclusions. The statistical reasoning in sports curriculum uses engaging examples, such as analyzing home-field advantage in the National Football League, to teach key concepts like correlation, regression, and hypothesis testing. Fischer's work—which includes player valuation and advance scouting—served as a compelling example of how these skills are applied outside the classroom.

The opportunity to hear from a professional like Fischer underscores the practical relevance of the students' coursework.

## **Murphy Named Outstanding Student Delegate**



Kyara Murphy

Congratulations to **Kyara Murphy**, recipient of the Outstanding Student Delegate Award from the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PR/HYLI) for her work as an outstanding delegate last year in the PR/HYLI. This honor recognizes Kyara's leadership qualities and her ability to take initiative, demonstrate critical thinking, communicate effectively, and be respectful of different viewpoints. Only three students are selected for

this award each year.

Kyara, a Webster Schroeder High School senior, attended a PR/HYLI conference in Puerto Rico in November.

# Empower, Inspire, Thrive: Join Webster CSD!

Webster CSD is regularly hiring for a variety of positions – cafeteria cooks to custodians, teachers to tutors, bus drivers to buildings and grounds, and more! Whether you're looking for a permanent role, a temporary position, or a substitute opportunity, we have options that range from part-time to full-time.

We offer competitive benefits, ongoing professional development, and a supportive culture that empowers you to thrive. Together, we're dedicated to inspiring our students and each other every day.

Apply now at websterschools.org/hr and help us create a brighter future for all!

# Middle Schools Launch Peer-Led "Above the Influence" Substance Prevention Program

Webster CSD's Spry and Willink middle schools are implementing Above the Influence (ATI) programs with the support of University of Rochester and Webster Health and Education Network (WHEN). ATI is an innovative substance misuse prevention approach that encourages teens to rise above negative influences (including substance use), develop positive life aspirations, and achieve their personal goals.

ATI was initially developed as a traditional media campaign led by the Partnership for Drug Free Kids. In 2013 the University of Rochester adapted it as a middle school prevention program led by carefully trained eighth grade peer leaders with ongoing adult mentoring. This new ATI grew out of the UR's 10 years of experience with peer led prevention programming. An evaluation of ATI in four middle schools in New York found that peer leaders reduced fellow students' intentions to use substances and lowered positive attitudes about substance use.

Many thanks to University of Rochester, WHEN, and our staff adult advisors and student peer leaders for kicking off this research-based prevention program.