

ELLICOTTVILLE

DISTRICT • NEWSLETTER

Volume 55, Issue 6

ELLICOTTVILLE CLASS OF 2025



ECS TOP 5 STUDENTS



Siying Sun Valedictorian

Siying Sun is the daughter of Aifa Sun and Xuejuan Fan.

She is graduating as the Valedictorian of her class with an Advanced Regents Diploma in Math and Science. She attained high honor roll throughout her high school career with a weighted average of 115.59. She was selected to the New Vision: Health Profession Program at the Olean BOCES Center. Siying has held many leadership positions throughout her high school career; she is currently the Treasurer of Student Council and National Honor Society.

Siying was the 2024 recipient of the Clarkson University scholarship, RIT's Women in STEM award, and

the University of Rochester's Bausch + Lomb Honorary Science Award. She also has the New York State Seal of Biliteracy for Chinese and Spanish. She enjoys being a member of various clubs including: Quizbowl, Drama Club, ESPRA, Jazz Choir, World Language Club, and Peer Tutoring. She is an active member of SchoolHouse, world tutoring SAT Math. She is an active member of the community by coordinating a blood drive to be held at Ellicottville and volunteering at Olean General Hospital.

Siying has worked in her family business for eight years.

Siying will be attending Binghamton University as a recipient of Dean's Promise Scholarship and the STEM Incentive Program Scholarship. Here she will be majoring in Biochemistry as a pre-medicine track.



Katie Bless Salutatorian

Katie Bless is the daughter of Keith and Elizabeth Bless.

She is graduating

as the Salutatorian of her class with an Advanced Regents Diploma. She attained high honor roll throughout her entire high school career and attained a weighted average of 113.52. Katie has obtained many leadership positions throughout her high school career: Class President for entirety of middle and high school, National Honor Society President, and was named a Captain for the girls' varsity soccer team. She is also involved in other clubs such as the ECS Caring Closet, World Language Club, Student Council, and Varsity Club.

It's a Wrap

By Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent

As they say in the movie world, the 2024-25 school year is a wrap! As everything draws to a close, we are thrilled for our seniors and the exciting futures they have ahead of them. In my short time here, it has become clear to me why so many people have so many complimentary things to say about these students and the Class of 2025. They have excelled in the classroom as evidenced by the number of students in the NHS. They have an outstanding collection of college acceptances. Excellence in sports at the local, Section, and State level. Top notch performers in the band and chorus. Musical productions that highlight the enormous talent walking in the halls. Students who challenge themselves to take pathways that are not always selected.

No matter what road they take I am truly convinced this class has the type of young people who are going to make a difference in this world. They have demonstrated these qualities throughout their time here at ECS and with that foundation in place...you just know good things are going to happen!

The year has been challenging but as a school and community we have come together and supported each other through the good times and the difficult times. The idea that "we have your back" is never more apparent than it has been this year. To some degree, it is what small communities are all about and we are all very fortunate to live in a community that truly cares and is willing to do whatever it takes. You will not find that everywhere, but you will find it here.

This year, we were very fortunate to "land" an outstanding group of new teachers who are already making a difference and have embraced the "ECS family" and what it means. Schools always need to rely on new blood to bring forth new ideas, new ways of thinking and help move the overall organization forward. Seeing their involvement in sports, music, special programs, advising students and classes are just a few of the ways our new staff are already making a difference.

During this school year two capital projects have been passed by our voters with outstanding positive votes. The first project for \$4,530,000 passed by a vote of 62-1 and

second in May for \$2,375,000 passed by a vote of 170-15. What is most exciting about both of these votes is the fact they will not impact taxes. They are tax neutral which means we will be relying on state aid and the retiring of past debt to pay any costs associated with either plan.

These projects will bring about some very long overdue changes, upgrades and repairs primarily focusing on the elementary area since it was originally opened in 1988. Some of the major items are as follows: new water tank, new heating system, new fire alarm system, asbestos removal in 6 classrooms, complete remodeling of nurse's office, new safety upgrades at elementary and high school entrances, new sinks in all elementary rooms, two new ADA bathrooms elementary, 2 new handicapped accessible entrances, new lower level bathrooms, and a new large group instruction/meeting room inside HS library.

As everyone now gears up for 2025-26 it is too early to know much about the challenges we will all face. However, knowing our school and community, I know we can count on each other to meet those challenges head on and have the support we need to be successful.

As we look to 2025-26, our students will be selecting our first Ex-officio student board member who will have an active role as a non-voting member. This new person will help provide better communication between the students and the Board of Education and the reverse. ECS, like all schools in New York State will be required to adopt a cellphone policy banning their use and possession for all students from 8-3 daily. This will have to be implemented this summer and will be in effect the beginning of the school year.

Finally, new leadership will be on the horizon! The Board of Education will continue the search process for a new superintendent over the upcoming months with the hiring assured during the 2025-26 school year. I will continue to serve as Interim until the new superintendent is hired and in place.

In closing, ECS is truly a special place in so many ways and I am happy to have

had the opportunity to live in it for so many years. What you have here is special and please do not take it for granted. You have a unique community that supports this school unquestionably. Parents, grandparents, siblings, teachers, support staff, administration, BOE, relatives, and friends are part of what we call the "ECS Family".

Your Support Does Not Go Unnoticed

Once again, the voters of the Ellicottville School District came through with outstanding support for our programs, overall budget, leasing of 3 buses, library, and the approval of a \$2,375,000 capital project.

Since our budget exceeded the 2% cap it required a "super majority" approval of 60%. As you see below the budget was approved by 92.5% of our voters. On behalf of the Board of Education, administration, teachers, support staff but most importantly the students, we want to thank you for your support and confidence!

YES	NO	
174	14	\$16,311,698 - Basic Budget (92.5% approval!)
175	12	Not to exceed \$115,000- Bus Lease for two 66 passenger buses and one wheelchair bus
161	26	\$85,000 - Library
170	15	\$2,375,000 - Capital Improvement Project 2025 (92% approval!)

Your voting shows confidence in the overall school system and support for the programs and direction the district is going. The vote is like a yearly evaluation by the taxpayers for those of us managing the districts resources whether they be people, money, facilities or programming.

While we appreciate this confidence, we do not take any of this for granted and continue to strive to earn and maintain your trust and support.

Every year brings forth challenges but more importantly it also has new and exciting opportunities. Stay tuned for 2025-26!

ELLICOTTVILLE TOP 5 STUDENTS

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She was a 2024 recipient of the George Eastman Young Leaders Award from the University of Rochester, Science and Math Award from RIT, High School Achievement Award from Clarkson University, and Rensselaer Medal Award from RPI. She is a dedicated member of the school and community, where she has volunteered for multiple charities. Katie has worked at Flowers Off the Farm for 4 years.

Katie will be attending The Ohio State University studying Business on a Pre-Law track in the upcoming fall.



Courtney Marsh
Third in Class

Courtney Marsh is the daughter of Jason and Nicole Marsh. She is graduating third in her class with an Advanced Regents Diploma and a weighted average of 111.26. She was selected for the New Visions: Health Professions Program at the Olean BOCES Center. She has served as the Vice President of her class for four years. She is also the Vice President of National Honor Society, and Treasurer of the World Language Club. Courtney is a member of the Student Council, Varsity Club, ECS Caring Closet, and Quiz Bowl. Courtney has also been selected for all county band for percussion. She has participated in Varsity Soccer, Basketball, Cheerleading, and Swimming and Diving. Courtney was named a captain for Varsity Softball and Basketball. Courtney spends the majority of her free time playing travel softball.

Courtney has been awarded the New York State Seal of Biliteracy and the Cattaraugus County Youth Citizenship Award. She has also received the RIT Humanities and Social Sciences Scholarship, St. Bonaventure University Bonnie Scholarship Award, and the Keuka College George H. Ball Community Achievement Scholarship.

Courtney has worked for the Ellicottville Town Park as a park counselor and swim instructor. She has also officiated basketball for the Ellicottville Youth Program. She takes part in many community service activities and is dedicated to her school and community.

Courtney will be attending Purdue University in the fall. She will be majoring in Motorsports Engineering.



Téa Fuller
Fourth in Class

Téa Fuller is the daughter of Brandy and Justin Fuller. Téa is graduating fourth in her class with an

Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors and a weighted average of 110.42. She is part of Ellicottville Students for the Preservation of Reading in America (ESPRA) and a member of the National Honors Society. She has been on the high honor roll throughout her high school career, as well as JCC College Connections Student of the Year, University of Rochester's Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award, RIT Business and Leadership Award, and the Elmira College Key Award. Téa has also been a part of

4H since she was six and part of Interscholastic Equestrian Association since the seventh grade. Téa plans on continuing her academic and equestrian career at Emory & Henry University, double majoring in Business and Equine Studies.



Ben Edwards
Fifth in Class

Ben Edwards is the son of Jamie and Chris Edwards. He is graduating fifth in the class with an Advanced

Regents Diploma and a weighted GPA of 108.74. Ben is a member of National Honor Society. He also has participated in chess club, Quiz Bowl, Art club, Varsity club, and Yearbook.

Ben was a captain of the varsity soccer team, three-time First Team All-Star, and League Defensive MVP. He is also an All-Western NY Scholar Athlete. Ben has been the captain of the Track and Field team, competing in Section Six State Qualifiers since freshman year and placing top four during his sophomore and junior years. Ben also had a first-place finish in the Super 8 Meet of Champions his junior year. He also qualified for States in Ski Racing his senior year.

Outside of school Ben spends his time drawing. He has been a self-taught 3D artist since middle school. His freshman year he was a finalist in the New York Congressional Art Competition.

Ben will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology and will be majoring in 3D Digital Design. He will continue his track career as a Tiger.

Congratulations!

CLASS OF 2025 - *FUTURE PLANS*

Hayden Andera	Clarendon College	Nursing
Brianna Aronson	St. John Fisher College	Biology/Pre-Med
Elizabeth Ball	Employment	
Kathryn Bless	Ohio State University	Business/Pre-Law
Lauren Button	Employment	
Owen Doherty	Alfred State College	Business
Jayden Doutt	Vernon College	Physical Therapy
Benjamin Edwards	Rochester Institute of Technology	3D Digital Design
Sara Epps	Continued Education	
Alivia Fisher	Finger Lakes Community College	Early Childhood Education
Jack Flagg	Employment	
Tea Fuller	Emory & Henry University	Business/Equestrian Studies
Addison John	Kent State University	Business Management
Jacob Johnson	Employment	
Maddox Johnson	Paul Smiths College	Fish & Wildlife Sciences
Michael Kerns	Fordham University	Political Science/Pre-Law
Alarice Krause	Fredonia State University	English Education
Natalee Leiper	Fredonia State University	Business
Mackenzie Marek	Employment	
Courtney Marsh	Purdue University	Motorsports Engineering
Liam McGuire	Jamestown Community College	Psychology

Elleanor Meacham-Williams	Jamestown Community College	Business
Ryan Metzger	Alfred University	History Education
Laurena Mooney	Alfred State College	Welding
Eve Niesyty	Trocaire College	Medical Sonography
Ryan Norton	St. Bonaventure University	Financial Management
Jayce Pearl	Employment	
Merek Peters	Fredonia State University	Criminal Justice
Christopher Polino	Alfred State College	HVAC/Electrician
Grace Privitera	St. Bonaventure University	Music Composition
Kyle Robinson	Paul Smiths College	Natural Resources/Conservation
Cheyenne Rust	Houghton University	Childhood Education
Carter Smith	Finger Lakes Community College	Conservation
Siying Sun	Binghamton University	BioChemistry/Pre-Med
Sophia Sundeen	Oklahoma State University	Hospitality & Tourism Management
Layla Thomas	CABOCES	Phlebotomy
Violet Tussel	Employment	
Gracie Vassar	University of Pittsburgh @ Bradford	Nursing
Adelaide Weber	Jamestown Community College	Nursing
Ava Woodarek	Buffalo State University	Interior Design

Lions & Tigers & Bears... & More!

First graders, parents and teachers had a fun filled day at the Buffalo Zoo!

The weather was perfect, sunny but not too hot. It was just the right weather for the animals to be out and about and show off for all of us!

There were so many animals that we couldn't mention them all. Some of our favorites were the giraffes, otters, polar bears, gorillas and red pandas.

The reptile room and the rainforest building were full of interesting creatures, big and small.

What a great way to celebrate a fantastic first grade year!



EARTH DAY

Seniors sprucing up the outside of the school



Wolfinger Grant

Mrs. Keller's Pre-K Water Play project was chosen as one of this year's recipients of the Wolfinger Grant. The Wolfinger Family Fund provides grants to benefit students in Coudersport, Smethport, Northern Potter and Ellicottville. Sandy and Connie, the benefactors of the grant, believe in creating meaningful learning opportunities for students whenever possible.

The grant funding for Mrs. Keller's project purchased materials for a permanent water sensory play area as well as materials that support developmentally appropriate, play based science opportunities!



Varsity Golf

The Varsity Golf Team finished the 24-25 season with a league record of 5-6-1, and an overall record of 8-10-1. The Eagles finished 5th in a very challenging conference, dealing with difficult conditions at a variety of courses. Each player showed improvement throughout the year. With no Seniors, we look forward to what these players can do next year, while hopefully adding a few new golfers.

This year's team consisted of three Juniors; Cameron Mendell, Nolan Murphy, and Camden Palmatier, three Sophomores; Coleman Carls, Jaxson LaCroix, and Jonah Mann, 8th grader Marshall DeChane, and 7th grader Griffin Sciara.

Thank you to all the golfers for a fun and productive season.



QUIZ BOWL

The ECS Quiz Bowl team won the 2025 High School Bowl competition run by Media One Radio Group and JCC Jamestown. They were one of seventeen teams competing in this year's single elimination tournament. They also participated in this year's Virtual Nationals competition winning 4 of 6 matches to advance to the upcoming playoffs. It has been a very successful year for the team. Congratulations!



High School Bowl Champs: Siying Sun, Skye Wood, Jackson Kruszynski, Grace Kwagalakwe, Isabella Wilder



2025 Virtual Nationals: Jackson Kruszynski, Skye Wood, Courtney Marsh, Siying Sun, Isabella Wilder (not in picture)

ENVIROTHON TEAM 2025

Congratulations to the Envirothon team for earning 2nd place at this year's County competition. Members of the team include Jackson Kruszynski, Oliver Wedvik, Ande Northrup, Jordan Folts, Grady Byroads, and Anna Nazareth



2025 STEM SHOWCASE

The excitement was palpable as students, parents, and community members gathered for this year's STEM Showcase, a hands-on celebration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Held in the elementary school gymnasium and hallways, the event transformed learning into an interactive experience, with students

taking the lead as scientists, engineers, and innovators.

Throughout the evening, students from 4th and 5th grade presented a variety of science experiments and STEM projects they had researched and developed over the past few months. From chemical reactions and 3d printed bubble wands to robotic

arms and coding games, the exhibits reflected creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Student attendees were invited to show off their various classroom projects as well as participate in several hands-on activities, including slime-making stations, building challenges, and augmented reality demos. The student leaders of the event not only demonstrated their STEM knowledge but also their enthusiasm and ability to explain complex concepts in simple, engaging ways.

Congratulations to all students for their hard work this year! We are so proud of you!





ECS Student Council Successful Hot Dog Sale

On behalf of the ECS Student Council, we would like to extend our thank you to the following businesses who supported our budget day hot dog sale: Tops Markets, Save-A-Lot, BJ's, Bimbo Bakeries, and Walmart.

We would also like to thank everyone that came to get a hot dog meal while extending our sincere apologies to those that came after we sold out for the second time. With the addition of the Agriculture Appreciation Day, sports events, and the STEM evening, we had more sales than we have ever had in the 9 years of having this fundraiser. We will make sure we double our stock for next year and hope that you give us another chance.

Thank you again for all of your support and for making this fundraiser a success!



AG DAY



Ellicottville Central School Alumni Association Annual Banquet

This event will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2025. We are looking forward to a fun and entertaining evening with fellow alumni!

Officers:

John Burrell, President
Nancy Emke Rogan, Vice President
Karen Kelly, Secretary
Mark Ward, Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Donna Brooks
Charles Marsh
Diana Olson
Meganne Chapman

ELLICOTTVILLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 1033

Ellicottville, NY. 14731-1033

ECS ALUMNI BANQUET - Saturday, July 19, 2025

Social Hour Beginning at 5:30pm. Dinner at 7pm

Tannenbaum Lodge Upper Holiday Valley Ellicottville, New York

RESERVATION FORM

Please complete and return this form, along with your check made payable to the ECS Alumni Association at the above address, no later than July 10, 2025. Dinner is \$37.00 per person. You can also call Donna Brooks 716-699-2553 to make phone reservations. If you would prefer to make your reservations and pay online you can go to <https://www.ellicottvillealumni.com/> and click on the "Annual Banquet" link.

RESERVATIONS

Last Name First Name (Maiden Name) Graduation Year

☐ Filet Mignon ☐ Stuffed Chicken ☐ Salmon ☐ Vegetarian

☐ Filet Mignon ☐ Stuffed Chicken ☐ Salmon ☐ Vegetarian

Current Mailing Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Guests: _____

☐ Filet Mignon ☐ Stuffed Chicken ☐ Salmon ☐ Vegetarian

There will be brunch at the United Church of Ellicottville on Saturday, July 19th from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. Please come and socialize with other alumni. Please mark here if you plan on attending the brunch.

_____ Number of Guests for Brunch

I am pleased and supportive of what our Association is doing to further the education and careers of ECS graduates. Please accept my following contribution to support the on-going operation expenses of the Association \$10, \$20, \$50, Other Amount _____.

ELLCOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL
5873 Route 219
Ellicottville, NY 14731
www.ellicottvillecentral.com

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BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS
2025-2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Debra Golley – *President*
Mr. Karl Northrup – *Vice President*
Mr. Nathan Dahlman
Mrs. Tiffany Frentz
Mrs. Carla Kruszynski
Mr. Scotty McGee
Mrs. Jenna O'Connell

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL
Or CURRENT RESIDENT

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Mark J. Ward,
Interim Superintendent
Mrs. Elisabeth Beaver,
Assistant Principal K-12
Mrs. Kathryn Mendell,
Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum
Dr. Erich Ploetz,
6-12 Principal



ELLCOTTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL · MAY 20, 2025
BUDGET VOTE & BOARD MEMBER ELECTION RESULTS

BASIC BUDGET - Proposition #1

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Ellicottville Central School District in the County of Cattaraugus, State of New York, BE AND IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO EXPEND THE SUM OF \$16,311,698 for the 2025-2026 school year budget. *The Basic Budget will provide funds for all of the educationally related services and the maintenance of our school building.*

YES - 174 NO - 14

SCHOOL BUS LEASE - Proposition #2

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education of the Ellicottville Central School District in the County of Cattaraugus, State of New York, is authorized to levy an additional (not to exceed) \$115,000 to lease two (2) 66 passenger IC Bus CE school buses and one (1) Wheelchair passenger school bus for each of the next five years (five annual payments) commencing with the 2024/2025 school year.

YES - 175 NO - 12

ELLCOTTVILLE MEMORIAL

LIBRARY TAX- Proposition #3

RESOLVED: Shall the proposition be approved authorizing the Board of Education of the Ellicottville Central School District to levy taxes annually in the amount of \$85,000 and to pay over such monies to the Ellicottville Memorial Library.

YES - 161 NO - 26

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT 2025

RESOLVED: that (a) the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Ellicottville Central School District, Cattaraugus County, New York (the "District") is hereby authorized to undertake a proposed Capital Improvement Project, Phase 3 Health, Safety, & Building Integrity Enhancements-2025 (the "Project") consisting of the partial reconstruction, renovation and the construction of improvements and upgrades to various District buildings and facilities and the sites thereof, to implement various health, safety, accessibility and code compliance measures and various other measures that are included and generally described in (but are not to be limited by) the Project Plan that was referred to in the public notice of the vote on this Proposition, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$2,375,000; (b) a tax is hereby voted in an amount not to exceed \$2,375,000 to finance the estimated maximum cost of the Project, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by the Board; (c) in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$2,375,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on such obligations as the same shall become due and payable; and (d) New York State Building Aid funds expected

to be received by the District in connection with the Project are anticipated to offset a substantial part of such costs, and such funds, to the extent received, shall be applied to offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied.

YES - 170 NO - 15

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEMBER ELECTION**

The candidate with the highest number of votes will be assigned a five-year term seat beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2030 (this seat is currently held by Karl Northrup). The candidate with the second-highest number of votes will be assigned an unexpired term seat immediately following the election on May 20, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2027 (this seat is currently held by David Scott McGee).

Vote for TWO (2) (Please check ✓ or X):

117 votes David Scott (Scotty) McGee

166 votes Gary Abraham

4 votes Patti Snyder (Write-in Candidate)