



Chenango Forks Central School District
A Community Where All Learners Grow And Excel

BUDGET NEWSLETTER

May 2026



Remember to Vote: May 19, 2026

Superintendent's Message

Dear Chenango Forks Community,

This year, our work across Chenango Forks has been grounded in Habit 6: Synergize, working together to achieve more than we ever could alone. The progress we celebrate today is a direct result of the powerful collaboration between our students, staff, families, and community.

One of the most evident examples is with our capital improvements. We are excited to share that our new pool complex has reached substantial completion, with final Department of Health inspections underway and the hiring of a state required Aquatics Director in progress. These steps will allow us to expand programming for both our students and the community... So, stay tuned for upcoming community pool events!



You may have also noticed the enhancements around the new natatorium entrance, including a redesigned drive-up loop, which will include additional handicapped parking, and improved access to stadium facilities and restrooms. After unprecedented success in the Fall and Winter Sports seasons, we proudly opened our new baseball and softball complex this spring, with our inaugural games already underway. Work continues on our multi-use grass field to support soccer and lacrosse, further expanding opportunities for our students and community.



Our commitment to student leadership, character, and social-emotional wellness continues to thrive through our pre-K–12 work with “The Leader in Me” and the “7 Habits.” At Chenango Forks Elementary, students are discovering their unique talents and learning that even our youngest Blue Devils can be leaders. Across classrooms, students are setting goals, building shared missions, and learning the power of working together.

At the middle and high school levels, students are stepping into leadership roles through participating in “7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens” training and empowered student councils. Their impact is evident in initiatives like peer mentoring and peer homework help in study halls with the goal of increasing rates in completing student assignments and helping them to build healthy study skills.

This spirit of synergy was on full display as we were proudly selected to host this year’s New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) Joint Dinner, where our students



from grades 3-12 showcased their talents, leadership, and pride in our district. Their ability to work together and represent Chenango Forks was truly inspiring!

We are also seeing the tangible results of our efforts in our classrooms. This year, we proudly recognized 11 students who earned the New York State Seal of Biliteracy, with many more pursuing the Seal of Civic Readiness. These achievements reflect both individual dedication and the strength of our learning community.

As we look ahead, we remain mindful of the financial challenges associated with being a “Save Harmless” district, while continuing to prioritize strong programming for



Mr. Tom Burkhardt
Superintendent

our students. Our proposed 2.18% tax levy increase, which is at the allowable limit, enables us to maintain our current programmatic offerings while remaining fiscally responsible to our tax payers. We invite you to review the details of our proposed budget on the attached school tax report card.

The school budget vote will take place **Tuesday, May 19, from noon to 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium.** We encourage all community members to stay informed and participate.

At Chenango Forks, we know that when we work together with students, staff, families, and community partners, we create opportunities that would not be possible alone. That is the power of synergy, and it is what makes our school community so special.

Thank you for your continued support of Forks Nation as we are *"A Community Where All Learners Grow and Excel"*.

Sincerely,



Thomas Burkhardt,
Superintendent of Schools



Chenango Forks Elementary

Spring is in full bloom here at CFE! Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 recently completed the New York State ELA Assessment, and we are so proud of the focus, perseverance, and effort they demonstrated in doing their very best. We will continue with the New York State Math and Science Assessments as we move to May.

In April, we also continued our work to nurture a love of reading in our youngest learners. Thanks to the generosity of Broome County Executive Jason Garner, each of our kindergarten students received a complimentary copy of "All the Colors of the Earth" by Sheila Hamanaka. This beautiful and poetic picture book celebrates diversity, unconditional love, and the unique beauty of children through vivid natural imagery—making it a wonderful addition to home libraries. We are incredibly grateful for this thoughtful donation and the joy it brought to our students.

Our second grade students also took part in their annual Poetry Recitation during the month of April. Students selected a favorite poem and spent several weeks memorizing, practicing, and preparing for their presentations before sharing them with a small panel of judges. This special tradition not only strengthens reading fluency and public speaking skills, but also brings confidence, creativity, and excitement to our learners.

As we reflect on a wonderful month of April and recognize how quickly the end of the school year is approaching, we look forward to many exciting events and opportunities still to come for our students and families.



Mrs. Alison Birch
Principal

bircha@cforks.org



Mrs. Jennifer Young
Assistant Principal

youngj2@cforks.org



Impressive Work by All During the Second Grade Poetry Recitation



Earth Day Playground Clean-Up



Kindergarten Students Enjoying Their New Books

Pre-K Graduation

June 12, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.

5th Grade Moving up Ceremony

June 18, 2026 | 9:30 a. m.

Chenango Forks Middle School

As we enter the final stretch of the academic year, Quarter 4 is officially underway! At CFMS, we are encouraging all students to refocus and finish the year Forks strong. These final weeks present an important opportunity for students to stay engaged, demonstrate consistent effort, maintain strong attendance, and close out the year on a positive and successful note.

On April 1, our Agriculture Club hosted the CFMS Maple Syrup Fest & Agriculture Day—an event enjoyed by elementary students, middle schoolers, and community members alike. The day featured interactive agricultural and animal stations, engaging presentations led by high school students, and even live maple syrup production using sap collected right here at CF. It was a wonderful celebration of learning and community connection. We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who helped make this event such a success, with special thanks to Mrs. Hantsch for her leadership and dedication.

As we move through the final months of the school year, please take note of the following important dates:

May 6–7 – Math State Assessment

May 12 – Grade 8 Science State Assessment

May 19–21 – 8th Grade Spirit of '76 Trip to Washington, D.C.

May 26 – Quarter 4 Progress Reports Available
(3:30 p.m. via SchoolTool)

June – Final Exams (dates will be shared by individual teachers)

June 3 – Middle School Choral Concert (6 p.m.)

June 5 – High Notes Music Festival at Dorney Park
(Band & Choral Students)

June 11 – Middle School Band Concert (6 p.m.)

June 17 – Algebra Regents Exam (8 p.m.)

June 18 – Earth & Space Science Regents Exam (12 p.m.)

June 19 – No School: Juneteenth Recess

Week of June 22 (TBD) – CFMS Talent Show & End-of-Year Celebration

June 23 – 8th Grade Moving-Up Ceremony
(9:30 a.m. CFHS Auditorium)

We sincerely thank our parents, guardians, and community members for your continued support throughout the school year. Your involvement and encouragement play a vital role in the success of our students and our school community. As we look ahead to the final weeks, we are confident that together, we will finish the year Forks strong.



Mr. Andrew Rullo
Principal
rulloa@cforks.org



Mr. Chris Spencer
Secondary Assistant
Principal
spencerc@cforks.org



Builders Club Participated in the Annual Kids Can Build Challenge



Middle and High School Teams Finished Second Place in SUNY Broome Robotics Competition



Ag Club Members Hosted Agriculture Day with Real Farm Animals



Students Explored a Variety of Booths During the Fourth Annual Agriculture Day

8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony
June 23, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.

Chenango Forks High School

I hope that everyone in our Forks Nation had a wonderful Spring Break! It is hard to believe that we have started the last quarter of the 2025-26 school year. Our students have accomplished so much through three quarters, and we look forward to finishing another school year Forks Strong!

The last quarter will fly by, especially with so many wonderful, memory-making happenings to look forward to. Spring sports had a strong start this season and teams continue to build on their early successes. High school students had the opportunity to participate in a Health Fair, which was a wonderful, student focused initiative that strengthens health, education, and community connection. Some of the key topics were nutrition and physical wellness, stress management, higher education and trade school resources. Band and Chorus students traveled to Boston to perform and see a live professional performance. These are wonderful experiences for our talented students. The National Honor Society and the National Art Honor Society will induct many students during ceremonies this month. Later in May, our students will enjoy the Junior-Senior Prom, Spring Fling, and the annual Car Show. We also have the spring band and chorus concert performances in early June. Finally, our seniors will have their culminating events in the Senior Awards Ceremony and Graduation.

For our character education, we are shifting to Habit #7: Sharpen the Saw for the month of May. The foundation of this habit is self-renewal to have a balance in our everyday lives. We can weave in ways to revitalize ourselves by doing things that we love so that we can stay fresh when working on the other six habits.

As a reminder, students and parents/guardians may view student progress on the SchoolTool portal. We look forward to continuing to work with students and families to ensure a successful finish to the 2025-26 school year!



Mr. Steven Tronovitch
Principal

tronovitchs@cforks.org



Mr. Chris Spencer
*Secondary Assistant
Principal*

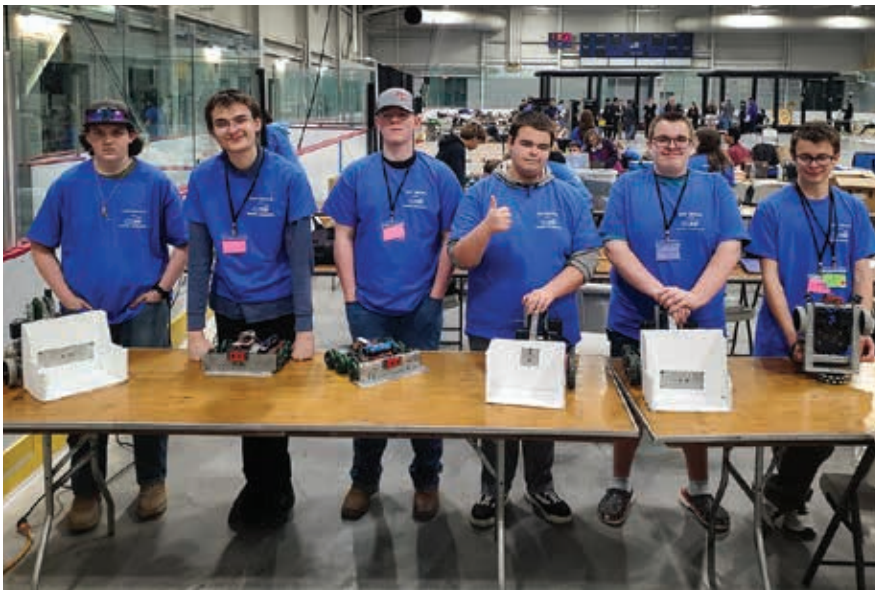
spencerc@cforks.org



CFHS Students Earned the New York Seal of Biliteracy



Students Learned About Local Volunteer Firefighting Opportunities



Financial Literacy Series Taught by KeyBank



*Students Connected With Many Local Organizations
During The Health Fair*

High School Graduation
June 26, 2026 | 6 p.m.

Kindergarten Signing Day



CHENANGO FORKS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Community Where All Learners Grow and Excel

CHENANGO FORKS ELEMENTARY

KINDERGARTEN SIGNING DAY

Thursday, May 14, 2026

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Families can sign up for a one-hour time slot in advance;
walk-ins will be accepted.

During this event every incoming kindergarten student will have the opportunity to:

- ✓ Submit registration paperwork
- ✓ Complete kindergarten screenings
- ✓ Take a Signing Day photo
- ✓ Register for Kindergarten Jumpstart

Scan to register



Kindergarten registration is for children who will be five (5) years of age on or before December 1, 2026.

This event is students NEW to CFE. If your child is currently enrolled in the CFE UPK program, there is no need to register for kindergarten.



Students who will be first time Chenango Forks Elementary students as they enter kindergarten for the 2026-27 school year are invited to attend Kindergarten Signing Day on Thursday, May 14, 2026. This special event is a fun way to celebrate this exciting milestone, meet our amazing school staff, and get ready for a fantastic year ahead.

During this event students and families will submit their registration paperwork, complete their kindergarten screenings and take a signing day photo. Families will also have the opportunity to register their children for Kindergarten Jumpstart, our summer kindergarten readiness program.

Students currently enrolled in UPK at CFE will be automatically registered for kindergarten and do not need to attend this event.

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026

Location: Chenango Forks Elementary School -
Please enter through the lower entrance
closest to the stadium

Time: Appointment times are available
between 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.-
6:30 p.m. Walk-ins will be accepted, but
appointments are preferred

For more information and to RSVP, please visit our website:
<https://www.cforks.org/o/cfces/page/kindergarten> or
scan the QR code above.

Chenango Forks Central School District - Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$40,888,624	\$42,334,225	\$42,036,128
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-2027 School Year		\$1,445,601	\$1,147,504
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.54%	2.81%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$13,665,123	\$13,963,220	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$13,665,123	\$13,963,220	\$13,665,123
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$672,058	\$677,193	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$12,993,065	\$13,286,027	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$12,993,065	\$13,286,027	
I. Difference: G-H (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$4,211,694	\$4,200,128	\$4,175,128
Program Component	\$28,621,430	\$29,577,863	\$29,449,766
Capital Component	\$8,055,500	\$8,556,234	\$8,411,234

*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-2027 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. The proposed contingency budget contains reductions for non-contingent items including equipment, the capital outlay project, as well as some administrative and program expenses.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements.)

Description	Amount
Purchase of Buses	\$ 375,000

Estimated Basic Star Exemption Savings ¹	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-2027 School Year	\$583
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-2027 by the qualified voters of the Chenango Forks Central School District, Broome and Chenango Counties, New York, will be held in the Chenango Forks Central School District in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M., prevailing time in the High School Auditorium at which time the polls will be opened by voting ballot or machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

More Information

2026-2027 Proposed Budget includes \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project at Elementary School

Continued replacement of HVAC unit(s) at the elementary school that have been identified in need of replacement with previous building condition surveys. The District will receive approximately 90 % building aid for the project, for a net cost of \$10,000 after receiving the aid.

New Facilities Capital Reserve Fund Proposition

The District is asking voters to consider a proposition to establish a new Facilities Capital Reserve Fund (separate from the General Fund budget vote).

This reserve fund would help finance District-wide capital improvements, including site work, construction, reconstruction, renovation and equipping of all school buildings and facilities, along with related costs. The fund would have a maximum capacity of \$10 million, funded over a 10-year period.

The District's current Capital Reserve Fund was created in 2017 and may not be funded after 2027.

School Bus Vote

The Chenango Forks CSD will be presenting a proposition to voters for approval of \$375,000 in funding to facilitate the purchase of:

- (1) 72 Passenger (Gas) School Bus
- (1) 35 Passenger (Gas) School Bus



Board of Education Candidate

Tina Hepler

My name is Tina Hepler, and I am excited to announce my candidacy for a Board of Education vacancy. I have been a resident of the district for 17 years. I am a stay-at-home mother with a BA in Psychology and a Masters in Social Work who also operates a small business. I have three children enrolled in the district, one in high school and two in middle school.

I have been highly involved in school activities, including serving with and evolving the elementary PTO for 10 years, as well as participating as a parent representative on multiple district committees. I maintain active involvement in the district's athletic community through coaching youth, organizing programs, and helping create new opportunities for students. I am also engaged in several community and school organizations, including serving as President of XC and Track Boosters, a member of the Soccer Boosters, Treasurer of the new FFA Alumni group, and a member of Dollars for Scholars. I also remain actively engaged and socially connected within the community.

I am running for the Board of Education because I am committed to making a positive and meaningful impact within the district. I value public education and am dedicated to the success and well-being of all students. I believe in using strong listening skills, collaborative leadership, and effective communication to support the district as a member of the Board of Education. My goal is to help ensure the district operates efficiently and to work constructively with fellow board members to address challenges and support student achievement.



Tina Hepler
BOE Candidate



Tuesday, May 19, 2026
12 - 8 pm

Chenango Forks HS Auditorium

To vote, you must be:

- **A U.S. Citizen**
- **A resident of the district at least 30 days prior to the election**
- **18 years of age or older**

Qualified voters must present identification. Proof of residency may include the following valid and current documents: New York State driver's license, New York State non-driver identification card, utility bill, or voter registration card. Voters will also be required to provide their signature, printed name and address.

Applications for early mail voting may be applied for at the Office of the District Clerk. Such requests must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be issued to the voter or their agent in person. Early Mail Voting ballots must be received in the office of the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the vote.

The completed application for absentee ballot must be received by the School District Clerk no later than seven (7) days preceding the vote on May 19, 2026. All absentee ballots hand-delivered or mailed must be received in the Office of the District Clerk at Chenango Forks Central School District, One Gordon Drive, Binghamton, NY 13901, no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2026.

Absentee and early mail voting ballot applications are available at the District Office, One Gordon Drive, between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. each day other than Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, or by calling the District Office at 607-648-7543, option 2.

Military voters may apply for a military ballot by requesting and returning a military ballot application, by mail or in person, to the office of the Clerk of the school district no later than 5:00 p.m. no later than seven (7) days preceding the vote on May 19, 2026. and must indicate his/her preference for receiving said military ballot application or military ballot by mail, fax or email. Military ballots must be received in the office of the School District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the vote.

Chenango Forks Athletics Highlights

Fall Season Achievements

Our fall athletic teams enjoyed an outstanding season filled with competitive success and academic excellence. Five teams earned Division Championships: boys soccer, girls soccer, girls tennis, football, and cross country.

Four of those teams, girls soccer, girls tennis, football, and cross country, also captured Sectional Championships. Girls soccer and football advanced to the New York State Semifinals, with football continuing on to compete in the State Finals.

In addition to their onfield success, all 10 fall teams were recognized as Scholar Athlete Teams, including boys and girls soccer, girls tennis, football, boys and girls cross country, cheer, golf, girls swimming & diving, and volleyball.

Winter Season Achievements

The winter season was equally impressive. Three teams, boys wrestling, girls wrestling, and girls basketball, were crowned Division Champions. The girls basketball team also claimed the Sectional Championship.

Five student athletes competed at the New York State State Wrestling Tournament, including Jansen Derzanovich, Emily Phelps, Jillian Howell, Brody O'Hern, and Tyler Ritter. An indoor track relay team of Jacob Clutz, Lincoln Raab, Max Harkness, and Sam Paske also competed at the state level, along with bowler Landon Butenko at the New York State Finals. Girls basketball advanced to the New York State Finals, marking another highlight of the season.

Eight of our 10 winter teams earned Scholar Athlete Team recognition, showcasing a continued commitment to academic and athletic excellence. Those teams included girls wrestling, girls bowling, boys and girls indoor track, girls and boys basketball, cheer, and boys swimming & diving.

The spring sports are underway, and our teams continue to excel this season as well. Our athletic spring season recap will be sent out at the end of the school year. Let's Go Forks Nation!

Congratulations to our Section IV Champions



Extra-Curricular Opportunities for Chenango Forks Students



In the Chenango Forks Central School District, learning extends beyond the classroom. Through a wide range of extracurricular opportunities available to students from elementary through high school, we are committed to developing the whole child, academically, socially, creatively and physically.

We offer nearly forty extracurricular opportunities district-wide that allow students to explore their interests and connect learning to real-world experiences. Our offerings play a vital role in fostering student engagement, strengthening school pride, as well as building a strong sense of community.

At Chenango Forks Elementary, students begin exploring enrichment opportunities that build confidence and strengthen critical thinking and leadership skills. Through clubs like Robotics and Student Council, students learn the value of collaboration and problem solving in a fun and supportive environment.

At Chenango Forks Middle School, offerings expand to include clubs focused on STEM, the arts, leadership, and personal wellness. Students can explore interests through extracurriculars such as Art Club, Future Farmers of America, Drama, Technology and Engineering, Health and Wellness, Yearbook and Student Council. These experiences help students strengthen their teamwork skills, expand their creativity, foster communication skills and develop new interests.

High school students have access to numerous extracurricular programs that to support future college and career goals, representing areas such as the arts (Photography), leadership and service (Interact, National Honor Society), STEM (Science Olympiad, Environthon), and cultural and global learning (Costa Rica and French, among many others.)

Across all three buildings, extracurricular opportunities are intentionally aligned with the district's four priority areas: Preparation for Life and Career, the Student Experience, Academic Excellence, and Community Partnerships.

By investing in extracurricular programming, Forks Nation continues to be "a community where all learners grow and excel."





One Gordon Drive
Binghamton, NY 13901

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Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Tom Burkhardt

Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Lori Pourby

Board of Education

Jon Scofield
President

Brian Aukema
Vice President

Katie Ginalski

Sarah Sirgany

Christine Webb

Michael Moppert
Ex-Officio Student Board Member

**Current Resident or
ECRWSS**

Important Dates:

May

- 6-7** Grade 3 and Grades 6-8 New York State Math Testing
- 11** Board of Education Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting 6 p.m. | CFMS Library
- 12** Grade 5 and Grade 8 NYS Science Testing
- 13** Fifth Grade Spring Concert 6 p.m.
- 14** Kindergarten Signing Day (New CFE kindergarten students only)
- 15** Prom (HS)
- 19** Budget Vote 12-8 p.m.
- 19-21** Eighth Grade Spirit of '76 trip to Washington, DC
- 22-25** Memorial Day Holiday (No School)
- 29** K-2 Carnival

June

- 2** Third & Fourth Grade Concert 6 p.m.
- 3** MS/HS Chorus Concert 6 p.m.
- 4** Board of Education Regular Meeting 6 p.m. | CFMS Library
- 5** High Notes Music Festival at Dorney Park (MS/HS Band & Choral Students)
- 5** Grades 3-5 Country Fair
- 9-10** New York State Regents Exams
- 11** MS/HS Band Concert 6 p.m.
- 12** Pre-K Graduation 9:30 a.m.
- 16** Senior Awards Ceremony
- 17-18** New York State Regents Exams
- 18** Fifth Grade Moving Up Ceremony 9:30 a.m.
- 19** Juneteenth (No school)
- 22-25** New York State Regents Exams
- 23** Eighth Grade Moving Up Ceremony 9:30 a.m.
- 26** High School Graduation