The Forks Chronicle

April 2026



April 2026 Edition

Letter From the Superintendent



Mr. Thomas Burkhardt,
Superintendent

Dear Chenango Forks Families,

As we approach a well-deserved Spring Break, I want to take a moment to reflect on the month of March, a time that was both busy and rewarding for our Chenango Forks students.

Throughout the month, our students demonstrated their talents, dedication and school pride across a wide range of activities. From musical events such as BCMEA All-County and our production of "The Wizard of Oz," to strong performances by our middle and high school robotics and Science Olympiad teams, as well as several varsity athletic teams advancing to postseason play, our students earned well-deserved recognition both individually and collectively. Most recently, our middle and high school agricultural students led our 4th Annual Agriculture Day at Chenango Forks. Despite less-than-ideal weather, the event was a tremendous success, providing hands-on learning opportunities for students from prekindergarten through grade 12. The enthusiasm, leadership and strong participation throughout all these events truly highlight the pride, collaboration and commitment that define Forks Nation.

In district budget news, we continue to work diligently to finalize the proposed 2026–2027 school year budget. This has been a particularly challenging process, as the Governor and Legislature have once again not adopted a state budget on time. As a result, we are developing financial projections based on multiple budget proposals from both houses of the Legislature, which adds complexity to our planning. Despite these uncertainties, our administrative team remains committed to thoughtful and responsible planning for the upcoming school year. The most recent budget presentation from the March Board of Education meeting is available on our website under **Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes**.

As we look ahead to April, our habit focus is Habit 6: Synergize. Synergizing emphasizes the importance of teamwork and working together toward shared goals. These principles are evident throughout our schools each day, and we look forward to continuing to highlight and celebrate examples of collaboration among our students, staff and families. Be sure to check out **this month's character education video**, which highlights Habit 6 in action.

As we head into spring break, I want to thank the entire CF community- our students, faculty, staff and families, for your continued dedication to making Chenango Forks a place where all learners grow and excel.

The remainder of the school year always moves quickly after the break and is filled with important events and exciting milestones, and I am confident this year will be no exception.

Tom Burkhardt

Tom Burkhardt, *Superintendent*

CHENANGO FORKS
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Chenango Forks Elementary

March was a busy and exciting month at CFE, filled with hands-on learning and special events! In STEAM, students explored outer space in Mr. Bender's STEAM class using a portable planetarium—an unforgettable experience that brought the wonders of the universe right to our school. Our fifth graders also welcomed the Binghamton University Chemistry Outreach Program, where they participated in fun, food-based experiments and discovered how science connects to everyday life. Our students had a wonderful time learning from professors and students from Binghamton University.



Learning Through Hands-On Food Based Experiments with the CHOP Program

Reading took center stage as we celebrated Read Across America Week. Students enjoyed listening to stories read by Mystery Reader staff members and had fun trying to guess each reader's identity. Our second graders combined literacy and science during their Ag in the Classroom experience, learning how the seasons impact life on the farm. With help from some of our high school students, they read "Seasons on the Farm" by Chelsea Tornetto and planted seeds to take home.



Planting Seeds with CFHS Ag Students and Cornell Cooperative Extention

March also marked Music in Our Schools Month and our fifth graders had several opportunities to shine. They attended a performance by the Binghamton Youth Symphony Orchestra at the Anderson Center, where they learned about different instruments and experienced the power of live music. We are especially proud of Brice Begeal, Lucien Garcia, Celia Honkala, Patrick Kelly, and MaKenna O'Malley, who represented CFE in the BCMEA All-County Chorus. Additionally, select members of our fifth-grade chorus performed a beautiful rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the Broome-Tioga BOCES School Boards Association Annual Joint Dinner. Our guests thoroughly enjoyed the performance!



Fifth Grade Students Did a Wonderful Job Performing Our National Anthem

We also celebrated one of our most cherished traditions— Second Grade Grandparents Day! Nearly 200 grandparents and great-grandparents joined us for an afternoon filled with music, dancing and smiles. Students loved sharing this special time with their loved ones, and the celebration ended with cake, punch and plenty of joyful memories.



Grandparents Day is Always a Special Day at CFE

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Jen Young, Assistant Principal - youngj2@cforks.org

Chenango Forks Middle School

Spring has finally arrived, bringing warmer weather, renewed energy and the exciting final stretch of the school year! It's hard to believe we are already wrapping up Quarter 3 on Friday, April 17, and preparing to launch into Quarter 4 on Monday, April 20—the final ten weeks before summer break.

This is a crucial time of year for our students. Let's continue to build on our momentum, stay focused, and support one another as we work toward a strong and successful finish. Quarter 3 report cards, along with course selections for next school year, will be sent home with students on Wednesday, April 22.

Since our last newsletter, CFMS has been full of energy, achievement and opportunity in March:

- March 4: Our Robotics Teams represented CFMS at the Northern NY IQ Robotics Regional Finals. While we didn't advance this time, our students demonstrated incredible teamwork, perseverance and problem-solving skills—well done!
- March 11: Congratulations to our 2026 CFMS Dodgeball Champions—Team Average Joes and Team Gremlins!
- Week of March 16: Our annual Book Fair was a huge success, helping students grow their love for reading and expand their personal libraries.
- March 24: A group of students participated in a full-day leadership training event here at CFMS as part of our character education program.
- March 27: CFMS students showcased their innovation and creativity at SUNY Oswego Tech Wars.
- March 27: Our 8th graders had an incredible opportunity to explore real-world engineering during Engineering Day at Lockheed Martin.

We are so proud of our students for taking advantage of these experiences and representing CFMS with pride!

With the start of April, the excitement continues:

- April 1: We hosted our 4th Annual Chenango Forks Agriculture & Maple Syrup Day—an incredible hands-on learning experience for our students. Stay tuned for a full recap in next month's newsletter!
- Week of April 27: Our Technology & Builders Club will participate in the Kids Can Build Challenge, creating a student-designed structure using canned goods under the guidance of Mr. Ramsden. We look forward to sharing their creativity and results!

Following spring recess, students will participate in the NYS ELA, Math, and Grade 8 Science Exams. These assessments provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their growth and learning throughout the year. We greatly appreciate your partnership in helping students do their best by ensuring they get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and arrive at school on time and ready to focus!

As always, thank you for your continued support of our school community. We wish all of our CFMS families a wonderful April and a relaxing, well-deserved spring break. Enjoy the sunshine that the season will bring.



Incredible Effort by Our Robotics Teams at the Regional Finals



Middle School and High School Students Participated in Leadership Training



Eighth Grade Students Attended Lockheed Martin Engineering Day



Our 4th Annual Agriculture & Maple Syrup Day was an Incredible Success

Andrew Rullo, Principal - rulloa@cforks.org
Chris Spencer, Secondary Assistant Principal - spencerc@cforks.org

Chenango Forks High School

I hope that everyone is having a great start to spring! The third quarter is ending soon and our students will look to finish the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year Forks Strong.

Since the last newsletter, our winter athletes continued their success in their respective sports, with team and individual post-season accomplishments. Congratulations to our girls varsity basketball team for making team history. The Lady Blue Devils won the New York State semifinal game for the first time in program history and played in the program's first-ever New York State final. In wrestling, Brody O'Hern, Tyler Ritter and Jansen Derzanovich were section champions. They, along with Emily Phelps and Jillian Howell who placed at sectionals, represented us well at the New York State Tournament. In indoor track, Lincoln Raab, Jacob Clutz, Max Harkness and Sam Paske were 1600-meter relay indoor track section champions. Last, but certainly not least, Landon Butenko had an exceptional season in bowling, finishing 2nd at the New York State Tournament.

The last few weeks were filled with events creating positive memories here at CFHS and throughout the district. Eleven of our seniors presented and earned their Seal of Biliteracy. The High School Science Olympiad team had an incredible showing at the Regional Competition. We are proud to share that our team earned medals in 10 different events and finished 4th place overall. Our students worked hard to deliver an amazing performance of the "Wizard of Oz", which received rave review from all in attendance over their performance weekend. Congratulations to our very talented students in various areas!

Our juniors had the opportunity to attend the SUNY Southern Tier College Fair at SUNY Broome to learn more about postsecondary institutions they could potentially attend. The district hosted the Broome-Tioga BOCES School Boards Association Annual Joint Dinner, and our student leaders did an incredible job of facilitating and supporting throughout the evening with various tasks to make it a special night for all involved. Lastly, Our Agricultural classes and club hosted their 4th Annual Agricuture Day. The high school and middle school Ag students hosted booths to share what they have learned through their coursework, while helping younger students explore agriculture through engaging, hands-on learning.

Looking ahead, one of our future scientists at the high school will be attending the National Chemistry Olympiad Competition, hosted at Binghamton University, and our Envirothon team will be competing with area schools at the end of the month. We also look forward to continued success for our spring athletes as they have started competition. Best of luck to all!



CF Juniors Attend SUNY Southern Tier College Fair at SUNY Broome



Thank You to Our Student Leaders for Participating in the Annual Joint Dinner



High School Students Presented Their Agriculture Projects to CFE Students

For our character education, we are shifting to Habit #6: Synergize for the month of April. The focus is still on public victories by incorporating others in our decision-making process. The foundation of this habit is that open-mindedness, cooperation and teamwork can lead to better outcomes than working individually. We will focus on the process of working together positively to find solutions to problems.

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 2025-26 school year! Please reach out if you have any questions.

Steven Tronovitch, Principal - tronovitchs@cforks.org
Chris Spencer, Secondary Assistant Principal spencerc@cforks.org

Chenango Forks Community

CFCSD Hosts 2026 Annual Joint Dinner

On Thursday, March 26, Chenango Forks CSD proudly hosted the 2026 Annual Joint Dinner, sponsored by the Broome-Tioga Association of Chief School Administrators, the Broome-Tioga School Boards Association and the Organization of Instructional Representatives, bringing together district leaders from across our region.

This event served as a wonderful opportunity to showcase our talented student musicians and for our middle school and high school students to demonstrate their leadership skills.

We were also honored to welcome Chenango Forks alumnus Troy Nickerson, five-time NYS wrestling champion and Army West Point coach, as the keynote speaker.

A full article on the event can be found on our district website.



CFHS Students Work Together Towards a Common Goal



At Chenango Forks CSD, we believe in being part of something bigger than ourselves. We encourage students of all ages to work together toward a common goal by practicing habits 4-7 of "The 7 Habits of Highly Successful Students." These habits are important because they guide how we collaborate and help determine how far we can go as a team, a club and a community.

Check out our latest character education video to see how high school students are putting these habits into action.

Join The Chenango Forks Board of Education

Serving on the Chenango Forks Board of Education is a meaningful way to support our students, staff, and community while helping shape the future of our schools. Board members work collaboratively to set district goals, guide policies, and help ensure that every student has access to high-quality educational opportunities.

The Chenango Forks Board of Education currently has one seat open for election on May 19, 2026. The five-year term, currently held by Christine Webb and ending on June 30, 2026, will run from July 1, 2026- June 30, 2031.

Please visit our website for more details, including qualifications to run for the school board and how to pick up a nomination packet. **Petitions are due to the District Clerk by April 20, 2026.**

A COMMUNITY WHERE ALL LEARNERS GROW AND EXCEL

Save the Date

April 3 - 10 - NO SCHOOL | Spring Recess
April 13 - School Resumes
April 15 - 16 - Grades 4 and 5 NYS ELA Testing
April 17 - MS/HS End of Q3
April 20 - Board of Education Meeting 6 p.m. | CFMS Library
April 21 - 22 - Grade 3 NYS ELA Testing
April 22 - 23 - Grades 6-8 NYS ELA State Testing
April 24 - Campus-wide Lockdown Drill
April 24 - Half Day All Schools
April 24 - Dollars For Scholars Spring Fling Family Dance 6 - 7:30 p.m.
April 29 - 30 - Grades 4 and 5 NYS Math Testing
May 6 - 7 - Grade 3 and Grades 6-8 NYS Math Testing
May 11 - Board of Education Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting 6 p.m. | CFMS Library
May 12 - Grade 5 and Grade 8 NYS Science Testing