

WINTER 2026

THE TALON



CLYDE-SAVANNAH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Halfway There

Still Soaring

*Winter
Edition*

MID-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

Fall in Love with a Book
A Special Gift for Clyde Veterans
Elementary School Reads Together
Athletics Updates & More



A MESSAGE FROM *The Superintendent*



Dear Families,
As we move through the heart of winter, I want to take a moment to share several important updates and, most importantly, some exciting news that reflects the incredible work happening across our district.

The New York State Education Department has released its School Accountability Measures for the 2025–2026 school year (based on 2024–2025 assessment results). I am incredibly proud and excited to share that the Clyde-Savannah Elementary School demonstrated remarkable growth in both English Language Arts and Mathematics achievement and, as a result, has moved from a Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI) designation to a Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) designation. This significant milestone is a true testament to the hard work, dedication, and partnership of our students, staff, and families over the past year. Additionally, our Jr. High School has maintained its TSI designation, and our High School has maintained its Local Support and Improvement (LSI) status. We will be sharing more detailed information with families in the near future, but for now, a heartfelt congratulations to everyone who contributed to this success.

Our Capital Improvement Project also continues to move forward and remains on schedule. I want to sincerely thank our students and families for their flexibility and patience as learning and school events have taken place in non-traditional spaces. In particular, we appreciate your understanding as concerts and musical performances have been held in the gymnasium. These adjustments are temporary, and the long-term benefits of these improvements will positively impact students for years to come.

At the same time, the District is diligently working on the development of the 2026–2027 school budget. This process involves careful planning to align resources with student needs while remaining fiscally responsible. We anticipate sharing the full proposed budget with taxpayers toward the end of April and look forward to continued community engagement throughout the process.

I would also like to provide an update on the grades 7–12 reconfiguration process for the 2026–2027 school year. This restructuring was thoughtfully developed in response to enrollment trends, evolving program needs, operational and staffing efficiencies, and the goal of maximizing building leadership and expertise to improve student outcomes. As part of this transition, the District will be moving to a grades 7–12 leadership model. Mrs. Mary Madonna will transition from her role as Jr. High School Principal to serve as Executive Principal for grades 7–12. In this role, Mrs. Madonna will oversee instructional leadership, systems alignment, and student support across both buildings, while working closely with the grades 7–12 Principal, Dr. Craig Pawlak. Under this structure, there will no longer be a separate Jr. High School principal, allowing for greater coherence, consistency, and continuity for students and staff throughout the secondary experience.

As always, I am deeply grateful for the partnership we share with our families and community. Your support, flexibility, and trust make a meaningful difference, and together we continue to move our district forward.

Wishing you a safe, healthy, and warm winter season.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Hayden
Superintendent of Schools

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FALL IN LOVE WITH A BOOK

A Jr. High Reading Initiative

Each year, February means two things: Valentine's Day and Winter Break. This year, for Clyde-Savannah's Jr. High School students, it was also a chance to Fall in Love with a Book.

Jr. High School Principal Mrs. Mary Madonna brought the concept of a "blind date with a book" to Clyde-Savannah. Students could choose a wrapped book without seeing the title or cover. However, each book included clues about the story and themes to help students decide.

"I wanted to do something that would inspire our students to develop a love of reading," said Mrs. Madonna. "I have done 'blind date with a book' myself and have enjoyed it immensely."

Mrs. Madonna said she learned to love reading when she was a teenager, thanks to the influence of a teacher. When thinking about how she could instill that same love, Fall in Love with a Book was born.

"My biggest motivation is trying to help kids fall in love with reading," said Mrs. Madonna. "Some kids fell behind in their literacy skills during the pandemic, so I wanted to do something and think outside the box."

The National Junior Honor Society and Junior

High Student Council collected middle-grade book donations from teachers and staff. Then they wrapped those books in colorful paper, embellished them with love-themed stickers and ribbons, and added clues about the book that students could use in choosing their books.

"We tried to hype it up in class," said Jr. High ELA teacher Mrs. Amanda Lyttle. "The mystery behind the project has some students curious. This gives them a chance to step out of what they're usually reading."



The goal of the Fall in Love with a Book project was to have a total of 180 books to give away to students in 7th-9th grades, as well as raffle baskets for a few lucky students. Each book was reviewed for appropriateness and sorted into grade levels, then clues were generated using AI.

In addition to Clyde-Savannah's mission to Educate, Inspire, and Empower, the Jr.-Sr. High School also encourages students to embrace the Eagle Way values of Excellence, Attitude, Growth, Leadership, and Empathy. In designing Fall in Love with a Book, Mrs. Madonna incorporated these values and included a poem with each book to remind students how reading promotes the Eagle Way.

The week before Valentine's Day and Winter Break, students visited the library with their ELA classes to browse the wrapped books and choose what appealed to them. The hope was that students would read their books during the break week.

"Once the students give it a try, we hope they'll think it's pretty cool," said Mrs. Lyttle. "I hope those who especially love to read will take a chance on it."

So far, the Fall in Love with a Book has been extremely successful. The intrigue of a mystery book piqued students' curiosity and they were excited to dive into their books. The Sr. High students who have seen the project unfold have already asked if they can participate next year.

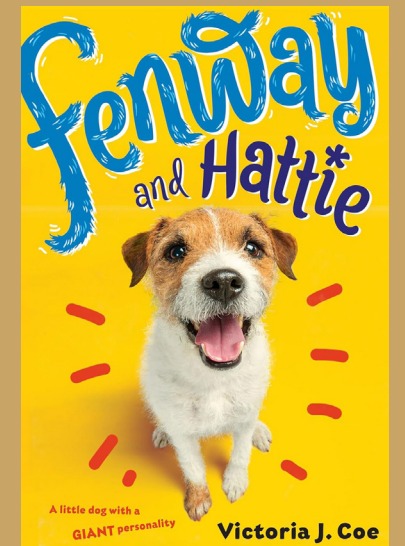
One 7th grade student, on unwrapping her mystery book, told Mrs. Madonna, "I love my book so much. I can't wait to read it!"

Mrs. Madonna plans to send out a survey asking students whether they enjoyed their book, whether they actually read it, and if they believe the school should continue this initiative. Ultimately, for both avid readers and reluctant ones, this project has generated real excitement at the Jr.-Sr. High School and will hopefully inspire a lasting, deeper appreciation for reading.



C-S ELEMENTARY READS: ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK

If you have an Elementary School student at Clyde-Savannah, you know the entire school is reading one book this winter: Fenway and Hattie by Victoria Coe. This book is part of the One School, One Book initiative, a community-wide shared reading experience designed to bring families and school together.



In mid-January, each Elementary School family received a copy of this book about a rambunctious Jack Russell terrier, Fenway, and his friendship with his "short human," Hattie, told entirely from Fenway's point of view. Families also received a reading schedule, about 15 minutes per night, and suggestions for activities to do together.

During morning announcements, students have a chance to answer daily trivia questions, which has had lots of participation. Teachers are also incorporating activities and discussions about the book in class.

"I'm excited to have the community connection that grounds us all in a common reading experience," said Principal Mrs. Erin Wood, who initially brought One School, One Book to Clyde-Savannah last year.

Parents were encouraged to read aloud to their children, no matter their age. The book was selected because it can be followed and understood by younger students but still keep older students engaged and interested.

On February 25, families were invited to our One School, One Book celebration to cap off this schoolwide effort. In partnership with the Literacy Volunteers of Wayne County, the event includes a book giveaway for attendees, as well as stations with family activities that coincide with Fenway and Hattie.

We are proud to see our community come together to nurture a love of reading in our students and build a community of readers. Way to go, C-S Elementary!

Golden Eagle ATHLETICS



ANOTHER C-S RECORD FOR TAYLOR

Congratulations to Taylor Carnevale who has reached a momentous milestone by becoming the 3rd leading scorer in Clyde-Savannah girls' basketball history!

Taylor currently has 1,200+ points. She recently signed with Clarkson University to play basketball next year.

WEST DIVISION INDEPENDENT LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Our Varsity Football team won its league championship last fall. Congratulations, also, to Coach Rice, named West Division Coach of the Year!



ALL-GREATER ROCHESTER ATHLETES

Congrats to our Clyde-Savannah athletes that received the All-Greater Rochester Honorable Mention for their participation in Fall sports. Pictured, l-r: Jayden Carnevale, Vincent Nicoletta, Taylor Carnevale, Bella Smart.

GOLF TEAM ALL-STARS

This year's golf team made quite the impression with three All-Star players: Spencer Bloomer, Second Team Jackson Barr, First Team & Co-Player of the Year Jace Paylor, First Team



JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL, A SUCCESS

In January, the Clyde-Savannah Musical Club performed The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, a hilarious and heartfelt musical bringing together quirky spellers, tough words, and lots of laughs. This year's musical was held in the Jr.-Sr. High School gymnasium, due to construction in the auditorium. This production was the perfect adaptation for a gym performance. The performers and musicians did a great job bringing this production together with heart and humor. Great job to everyone involved!



CONGRATS, NEW NHS MEMBERS

In November, our current National Honor Society members led a ceremony inducting Clyde-Savannah Central School District's newest NHS members. These students were selected based on their dedication to character, scholarship, leadership, and service. They embody our C-S values and represent our District with pride. We look forward to seeing how these students continue to make a difference in our community and beyond. New members include Arianna Barnes, Katie Cronin, Taylor Record, and Bella Smart.



A GIFT FOR OUR Veterans



For Veterans Day, Ms. Canham's 4th grade class came up with a giant idea: they wanted to create a huge American flag to honor local veterans. They enlisted students of all ages at the Elementary School to decorate squares commemorating family members or other veterans and their service. Then Ms. Canham's class assembled it into a flag that hung in the ES hallway throughout November.

In December, the class visited the VFW to present the flag to veterans from Clyde. Several of the students shared the purpose of this project and why it is important, then explained how the flag was made. After the presentation, each student was given a small flag of their own and posed for pictures with the veterans.

At Clyde-Savannah, we seek to Educate, Inspire, and Empower our students, and this project did exactly that. Students took their knowledge about military veterans and were inspired to come up with this project as a group. Thanks to their teacher's help, they were empowered to see their vision become not just a reality, but a gift to the community.



SUPER BOWL SNACKS, SCHOOL SPIRIT

Clyde-Savannah's Elementary School community published a new Super Bowl Snacks Cookbook, a collection of favorite game-day recipes contributed by families, students, and staff.

The cookbook features a variety of dishes suited for Super Bowl gatherings, including appetizers, hearty snacks, and desserts. Each submission reflects the traditions and tastes that shape our school community.

Instead of the usual "Soup-er Bowl" can collection, the Elementary School wanted to do something different. With the help of Community Schools, who helped with the design and printing, the Elementary School was able to provide a book

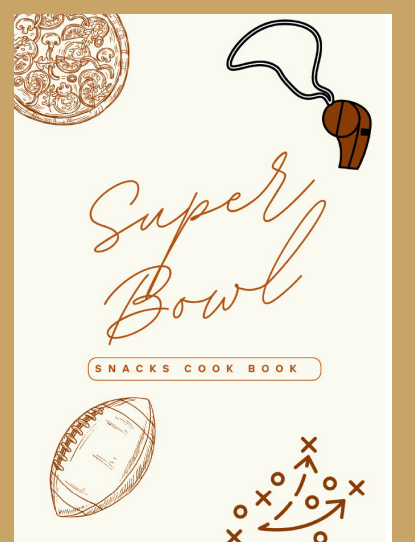
for each family, which students received the Friday before the Super Bowl.

"We wanted to find a way to empower families and give back," said Principal Mrs. Erin Wood.

By inviting contributions from across the District, the initiative aimed to strengthen connections between home and school while celebrating the creativity of our students and their families.

"There was a lot of excitement around the project," said Mrs. Wood. "It came out awesome. We're keeping the tradition, but in a different way."

This finished cookbook represents more than a collection of snacks. It stands as an example of what the Clyde-Savannah community can accomplish when it works together toward a common goal.





C-S JR-SR HIGH GIVES BACK ON COMMUNITY DAY



Highway Department, Savannah Town Offices, Savannah Post Office, and all staff members throughout the District.

Across the hall, students created cards for children at Golisano Children's Hospital and for various senior centers. The cards were designed for the holiday season and other special days throughout the year.

Over \$200 was raised by bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Several students donned their holiday best and read holiday-themed books to Clyde-Savannah Elementary students.

After a morning of volunteering, students in Jr. and Sr. High School spent their afternoon focused on wellness activities of all kinds. They each had to choose three sessions that interested them. Some of the activities included open gym, swimming, board games, video games, yoga, MMA lessons, and making holiday jam with Jr. High School Principal, Mrs. Mary Madonna.

This has become one of the High School's most treasured traditions, getting bigger and better each year. It provides a



On Friday, December 19, Clyde-Savannah High School students spent their morning volunteering throughout Clyde and Savannah for the school's Community Day event. Students signed up for activities like making cards and crafts, reading to younger students, and ringing the bell at Fastrac. Other students worked on cleaning yards in the community.

A group of students spent the morning baking and decorating cookies in the Family & Consumer Science classroom at the High School. Hundreds of cookies were baked and distributed to the Clyde Fire Department, Clyde Highway Department, Clyde Village Offices, Clyde Post Office, Clyde Police Department, Savannah Fire Department, Savannah



Holiday Music at C-S





CLYDE-SAVANNAH
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

215 GLASGOW STREET
CLYDE, NY 14433
(315) 902-3000
WWW.CLYDESAVANNAH.ORG

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The mission of the Clyde-Savannah Central School District is to educate, inspire & empower our learners to unlock their potential in order to meet the challenges in an ever-changing world.

Educate.

Inspire.

Empower!