

Message From the Superintendent



Adam Stoltman
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Alden Families,

As we enter the holiday season, I want to express my gratitude for the continued support of our Alden community. This time of year reminds us of the importance of family, kindness, connection, and the partnerships that make Alden such a special place to live, learn, and grow. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the progress we are making together to support our students and strengthen our schools.

I am pleased to share an update on our Foundation for the Future project, which is now moving full speed into Phase 2 construction. This past summer marked the beginning of this next phase, which will continue over the next two years. As the largest of the three phases of our $48 million capital investment, Phase 2 represents a significant commitment to maintaining, improving, and modernizing our school facilities for generations of Alden students.

Following a successful bidding process in late spring, work began under the guidance of our architectural and construction management teams. Much of the summer's activity focused on the Primary School, where our new playground is now open for students to enjoy! We are thrilled with the results of this inclusive space, designed to provide students of all ages and abilities with opportunities to play, explore, and connect. Additional finishing touches, including a shade structure, are being completed to enhance the space for students and provide opportunities for outdoor learning and community use.

Significant infrastructure improvements were also completed at the Primary School, including new hallway ceilings and lighting, a new fire alarm system, upgraded data infrastructure, new phones, and other electrical improvements. Completing this work within a short summer construction window required tremendous coordination and flexibility. I extend my sincere appreciation to our staff for their patience, cooperation, and support as our buildings were prepared for the start of the school year.

Construction continues throughout the fall and winter. At the High School, crews are working on infrastructure upgrades above hallway ceilings, including wiring and cabling for phones and fire alarm systems. Beginning in January, work is expected to begin in the Middle School library, followed by improvements to the Intermediate School kitchen and cafeteria next summer. Across our buildings, the project also includes important upgrades to windows, generators, security features, and other essential systems. While some of these improvements may not always be visible in our daily routines, they play an important role in creating safe, efficient, and welcoming learning environments for our students and staff.

At the same time, planning for Phase 3 is underway. With favorable bids during the first two phases, we have been able to incorporate additional improvements into the Phase 3 plans, including more window replacements, mechanical system upgrades, and security enhancements. The plans are anticipated to be submitted to the New York State Education Department, with construction currently planned to begin in 2027 and continue into 2028. We are also completing our New York State required five-year Building Conditions Survey, which will help guide future facility planning and the development of a long-term plan for maintaining our schools.

While we continue to invest in our school facilities, we are also paying close attention to changes that may shape the future of education in New York State. I encourage families to review the NY Inspires information on page 3 of this newsletter. This initiative reflects ongoing conversations happening at the New York State Board of Regents about how we prepare students for success and recognize their learning and accomplishments.

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The information currently available remains preliminary, as NYSED continues to develop and refine the requirements and implementation timeline for this initiative. Following the Board of Regents' September 14, 2026, direction to move toward a single New York State high school diploma and separate Regents examinations from diploma requirements, NYSED issued additional guidance on November 9, 2026, extending the anticipated timeline for a new statewide secondary assessment system to spring 2030. Further regulatory changes, guidance, and approvals are still forthcoming. The District is actively monitoring these developments and will continue to prepare for the anticipated changes and share updates with families as more information becomes available. Until the State finalizes and adopts the necessary changes, existing graduation requirements remain in effect.

What Families Should Know

Regents exams are not going away. They will continue to measure student achievement of New York State learning standards as required by Federal law. NYSED now anticipates implementing a statewide secondary assessment system in spring 2030. Until then, Regents examinations will continue to be administered.

New York will move to one diploma. Under NYSED's proposed plan, beginning in June 2028, the current system of multiple diploma types will transition to one New York State diploma. Advanced accomplishments will be recognized through seals and endorsements.

Student readiness will be demonstrated in multiple ways. NYSED is moving toward an assessment system that looks beyond a single exam. The proposed competency based graduation framework would allow them to demonstrate their knowledge and skills through a variety of learning experiences and assessments, including classroom assessments, projects, performance-based learning, internships, work-based learning, and capstones. Full implementation of this new graduation framework is anticipated to begin with students entering 9th grade in 2029-2030. Specific requirements and implementation details are still developing.

As we approach the holidays, I invite you to join us for the many holiday concerts and performances taking place throughout our schools. These events showcase the remarkable talents of our students and the dedication of our music educators and staff. Concert dates and times are available on the District website. We hope you will make time to attend and celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of our students.

As always, we are deeply grateful for the trust and continued support of our community. The investments we make in our schools, the relationships we build with our families, and the opportunities we provide our students are all part of our shared commitment to the future of Alden.

On behalf of the entire District and Board of Education, I wish you and your families a joyful holiday season filled with peace, happiness, and special moments with those who matter most. May the New Year bring good health, continued success, and many reasons to celebrate together.

Warm holiday wishes,

Adam Stoltman
Superintendent of Schools
Alden Central School District

New Playground Unveiled

In October, we were thrilled to officially unveil the brand-new Alden Primary School playground! Made possible through the generous support of our community and Board of Education, this dynamic space was created to ensure that our youngest learners have a safe, joyful, and inclusive environment to play and grow.

From the beginning, this project was a collaborative effort. Our design committee—made up of dedicated District teachers & staff, architects, and project managers—came together with a shared vision: to design a space where all students feel included and supported.

Key Features of Our New Space:

- Soft, Rubberized Surface: Replaces old pea gravel with a smooth, fully accessible surface, ensuring all students can navigate the play area comfortably and safely.
- Fully Fenced Perimeter: Prevents students from wandering or running into areas they shouldn't.
- Concrete Walking Path: Surrounds the playground to encourage continuous movement, exercise, and active break options for students, staff, and parents.
- Group Play Equipment: Intentionally selected to foster teamwork, collaboration, and social connection among classmates.

More Excitement on the Way!

While our students are already loving the new equipment, the transformation isn't quite complete. We are eagerly anticipating the final phase of construction, which includes a brand-new performance area featuring a raised stage and a synthetic turf field! We hope to see these additions completed before the end of the year, opening up even more opportunities for outdoor learning, creative play, and school performances.

Looking further down the road to the summer of 2027, outdoor bathroom access is another exciting addition that is still to come. This final feature should be ready for the start of the 2027–2028 school year, offering convenient facilities for our students, and eliminating the need for teachers to bring children back inside during recess.

Feeling Grateful

Playgrounds serve a critical role on an elementary campus. Beyond just being fun, this space provides our children with an essential outlet to burn off energy, build lifelong social skills with peers, and enjoy some fresh air during the school day.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our entire Alden community and Board of Education for continuously prioritizing and supporting the needs of the learners that we serve!



NY INSPIRES
ALDEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

EDUCATE • EMBRACE • EMPOWER

AT A GLANCE OCTOBER 2026
Pending updates from NYSED

Meaningful Learning • Belonging • Determination • Personal Fulfillment



ALDEN'S MISSION IN ACTION

NY Inspires asks us to deepen the same work Alden already values: learning that is meaningful, inclusive, relevant, and focused on the whole student.

EDUCATE Our students discover their passions through meaningful learning experiences.

EMBRACE Our students thrive in a community that fosters honesty, belonging, and determination.

EMPOWER Our students strive for personal fulfillment in a changing world.

The goal: every student is known, challenged and prepared for what comes next.

NY INSPIRES 4 TRANSFORMATIONS

1 Portrait of a Graduate
2 Redefine credits & learning experiences
3 Sunset diploma assessment requirements
4 Move to one NYS high school diploma

THE BIG IDEAS

- Demonstrate what students know and can do (not simply seat time).
- Expand authentic, interdisciplinary and career connected learning.
- Use multiple measures to show mastery.
- Increase student voice, choice and agency.
- Build readiness for college, career, civic life and the world beyond high school.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR ALDEN

- Align curriculum, instruction and assessment to a clear graduate vision.
- Create meaningful ways for students to demonstrate proficiency.
- Connect learning to real-world experiences and future pathways.
- Make competencies visible to students' families.
- Preserve rigor while increasing flexibility and opportunity.

REGENTS & THE TIMELINE - STATE DIRECTION

Beginning with students graduating in 2028, NYS is moving to one diploma and away from required Regents exams as a diploma barrier.

Regents exams continue as state assessments and can remain one method for students to demonstrate learning, including for seals/endorsements.

Full competency-based graduation implementation is planned for the 2029 cohort and will require regulatory changes.

ALDEN'S OPPORTUNITY

Build on what we already believe. Start with the vision. Design the learning experiences, develop the evidence and pathways that make it real.

Alden Celebrates Homecoming!

Alden's Homecoming week kicked off on Tuesday, October 13, with students bringing their creativity to life through exciting hallway decorations! The halls were transformed with colorful displays featuring Minions, Toy Story, Dr. Seuss, and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

The celebrations continued Thursday evening with a fun-filled parade and a spirited flag football game that brought our school community together. We enjoyed cheering for the football team Friday evening. The week's festivities wrapped up with a Homecoming dance on Saturday evening.

From creative decorations to school spirit and unforgettable memories, Homecoming was a wonderful celebration of Bulldog pride. It was a great week to be a Bulldog!





ATTENDANCE PRO REMINDER

The District's new Attendance Pro system is helping streamline attendance communication between families and our schools. Parents and guardians may receive a text when their student is marked absent and can respond directly to report an absence, ask attendance-related questions, or submit photos of parent or physician notes when appropriate. Mrs. Foss, K–12 Attendance Officer, monitors Attendance Pro communications daily to help ensure attendance matters are addressed.

Please make sure your contact information is current in our student management system so you can receive important attendance notifications and communicate with your school's attendance office.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten 2027-2028

The District is pleased to announce the continuation of our tuition-free Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program for the 2027-2028 school year. We work closely with our community partner, World of Wonders, to provide a high-quality, developmentally appropriate UPK experience for students. You can find important information regarding the UPK Program on the District website at www.aldenschools.org/upk.

The UPK program is located at the Alden Primary School and follows the District calendar. UPK is in session five days per week, for 6 hours a day. Please note that transportation must be provided by parents.

Eligibility Criteria for UPK for the 2027-2028 School Year:

- The child's family must reside in the Alden Central School District.
- The child must turn 4 years old on or by December 1, 2027.
- Complete the online registration and submit all required paperwork no later than Friday, February 26, 2027, at 3:00 pm to be eligible to participate in the lottery.

How To Apply:

- New Online Registration at https://www.aldenschools.org/registration
- If you have questions about registration, please contact Maria Gordon at mgordon@aldenschools.org or call 716-937-9116 ext. 4330.

Family Center Updates

Sincere thanks to everyone who brought in food for the Fall Food Drive this year. Thanks to your generosity, we were successfully able to put together emergency packs for families in need within the community. A special thank you to the National Junior Honor Society students who kindly volunteered to bring in food and got us off to a great start. We are so appreciative for your thoughtfulness, care and effort put into giving back to others. We are grateful to be a part of a community with such caring and compassionate individuals. Thank you!

Winter Community Resources
Be sure to look on the Alden Family Center website for the latest winter resources in the community including help with heating and local clothing closets that are stocked with winter clothes.

Family Center Happenings
Make sure to look for our Family Center newsletters that are emailed out at the beginning of each month with all the latest information on programming, community resources, and community events.

Supporting Your Child Through Difficult Moments – January 2027

Looking for some new ideas on how to address your child's difficult moments? Want to try some different learning strategies for responding to your child's challenging behaviors? During this program, you will become familiar with four supportive steps to help your child identify their feelings, learn healthy self-control, and reduce behavior concerns.

After-School Programming at the Intermediate School – January 2027

This program is for students who would enjoy some socialization, skill building, and hands-on projects with peers. This will run once a week, after school starting in January.

WACS Tells Alden's Stories

WACS is Alden High School's student news and broadcast program. It runs through two Multimedia Production classes, one for first-year students and one for students returning for a second year. It is staffed the way a working newsroom is: reporters, editors, producers, a studio manager, an art director and a StreamTeam director. Every position requires an application, including for returning staff.

The most visible piece is WACS Daily, a live morning broadcast that students anchor, produce and direct from the high school studio each day at 10:15 a.m. In about five minutes it covers staff announcements, the day's lunch menu, birthdays and school news, and stays available to replay for the rest of the day. Beyond the daily show, WACS reporters cover the District's Primary, Intermediate, Middle and High schools, along with sports and Board of Education, StreamTeam also livestreams school events. Their work appears on the WACS YouTube channel, Instagram and Facebook.

The two stories that follow show what that looks like in practice. In September, WACS covered the playground opening at Alden Primary. At the Athletic Wall of Fame induction on Oct. 16, each of the four inductees was introduced by a tribute video made by a WACS student, who researched the inductee's career, conducted the interview and edited the finished piece, while the StreamTeam carried the ceremony live.

Stay tuned for much more from our student storytelling team.



SHARING STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

The student journalists of WACS have hit the ground running this fall. On YouTube, WACS reporters covered the opening of the new Alden Primary playground and brought in its most important critics, the kids, to review it. Additionally, sports crews went inside a varsity volleyball match and kept a game diary from the football sidelines against Cleveland Hill.

In October, WACS debuted a new series of profiles of Alden athletes, following them on and off the field. The program will introduce the students behind the cameras in a set of Meet the WACS Staff videos and announce its 2026–27 roster of reporters and editors.

Highlighting Wall of Fame Inductees

When the Alden High School Athletic Wall of Fame inducted its 2026 class on October 16, the stories that introduced each honoree to the community were told by students. Four members of WACS each took one inductee from start to finish: researching a career, conducting the interview, and editing the footage, archive photos and scrapbook clippings into a finished tribute video.

WACS students also ran the live stream of the induction ceremony, so families, alumni and friends who couldn't be in the auditorium could watch from home. Learn more about our Wall of Fame Inductees on page 14.

Frank Bundy Class of 1977



Aleks C. profiled Frank Bundy, Class of 1977, the pitcher who helped carry Alden to the 1976 Class B sectional championship. Aleks interviewed him on the baseball field.

WACS News Interview →

Kimberly Knauff Penzone Class of 1989



Olivia R. profiled Kimberly Knauff Penzone, Class of 1989, who earned 11 varsity letters at Alden and has gone on to finish more than 50 marathons and ultramarathons. Olivia interviewed her by video call.

WACS News Interview →

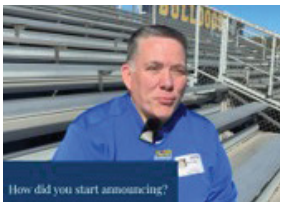
Sean Guyett Class of 2002



Frankie J. profiled Sean Guyett, Class of 2002, a four-year starter at running back who finished with 3,404 career rushing yards. Frankie interviewed him by video call.

WACS News Interview →

Kevin Okiec "The Voice of the Alden Bulldogs"



Brooke G. profiled Kevin Okiec, "The Voice of the Alden Bulldogs," who has announced Alden games and Section VI playoff contests for years.

WACS News Interview →

Nominations Open!

In collaboration with the Alden Administrators Association, we invite you to nominate an Alden High School Graduate for the Distinguished Alumni Award!

The nominee must be at least ten years removed from Alden High School AND someone who has significantly contributed to his/her chosen field or cause. The detailed criteria are listed in the form.

Please visit https://www.aldenschools.org/page/distinguished-alumni/ for a nomination form and fancy more information.

Those with questions can contact Mr. Patrick Quast or Mrs. Alison O'Neill at the High School at (716) 937-9116, extension 4191 or 4000.

The Induction Ceremony will be held in the fall of 2027 with Homecoming Festivities.

ALDEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Class of 2025:

Lt. Col. (Retired) Benjamin Canetti: Class of 1992

Dr. Corey Simon, DPT, Ph.D.: 1995

Class of 2023:

Gretchen Geitter: 1987

Denise Lauck Beyers: 1997

Class of 2021:

Terry Arndt : 1971

Nick Smith : 1986

Dr. Dana Rau Wymer : 1985

Class of 2019:

Dr. James S. Marks: 1965

Adam Zyglils: 2000

Brett Gornewicz : 2003

School Bus Safety in Winter Weather

The buses are ready and the snow tires are on! Amidst the holiday planning and preparations will come cold temperatures, snow and ice. This change in season means additional cold weather safety precautions for students who ride the school bus, and the drivers who travel the same streets.

Cold Weather Safety Tips for Students:

1. Dress appropriately for the weather. Wear coats, hats, gloves and boots. Make sure hats or face coverings don't obstruct vision, and boots can be easily walked in. Try to find outerwear that is bright-colored and reflective for better visibility to drivers (And check with our lost & found if your student forgets anything).



2. Allow extra time to get to the bus stop. The ground may be covered in snow and ice, so students should walk more slowly to get to their stops. Wait safely back from the road.

3. No 'horseplay' at the stop. Doing so could cause students to fall on the ice and become injured.

4. Cross 15 feet in front of the bus. If it's snowing, the driver may have more trouble seeing students, so make sure to leave plenty of room.

5. Use the handrail when getting on and off the bus. The steps are likely to be slippery due to wet and snowy boots.

Cold Weather Safety Tips for Drivers:

1. Slow down! This is a good rule of thumb in any winter driving situation, but it's especially important when driving near school zones or buses. Driving on ice will mean less time to slow down and stop for students or other vehicles.

2. Turn headlights on. It may be more difficult to see students in snowstorms or cloudy weather.

3. Pay attention! Again, another good rule for any season, but especially important in winter. Don't use your phone or change the radio while driving, and keep your eyes on the road at all times.

School Closing Information

In the event of a school closing, the following radio and television stations will carry the appropriate announcements:

- WBEN – Radio 930 AM
- WGRZ – Channel 2
- WIVB – Channel 4
- WKBW – Channel 7
- Spectrum News – Channel 9

A text message will also be sent to parents/guardians who have signed up to receive notifications. Typically, initial announcements will be made by 6 or 6:30 a.m. Absence of an announcement by 7 a.m. generally indicates that the District will be open as usual.

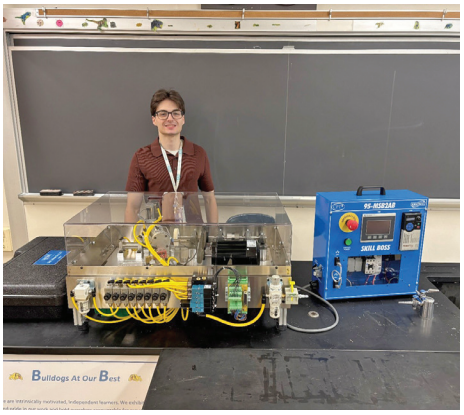
Introducing Mechatronics



This school year, the High School is offering a new Mechatronics course. This course is an applied science that teaches students about all things mechanical and electrical with a focus on manufacturing. Students have the chance to work with training equipment that works nearly identically to the equipment in a real manufacturing setting.

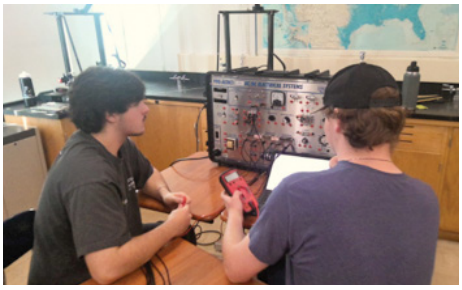
Through working with this equipment and passing exams, students have the potential to earn two industry-recognized SACA certifications. Both can give them a competitive advantage when applying to schools and trade positions.

As of now, the topic being covered is electrical systems. Students are using hands-on learning to uncover, work with, and troubleshoot electrical systems that they could see in a professional setting. Students are frequently working with their hands in groups and applying the knowledge they learn in class to build, troubleshoot, compare, and revise electrical circuitry.



Among the many other topics that will be covered over the course of the semester, students will also be working with their hands to troubleshoot and fix a fully automated mini factory. This mini factory is fitted with industry-accurate components and interfaces that will prepare them for work on these machines in a professional setting.





STEM+M Launches at Middle School

The Buffalo Niagara Manufacturing Alliance (BNMA) introduced the BlueForge Alliance to Alden via Bulldog Manufacturing and Alden hosted a Sparkforce summer camp in 2025. Our District's commitment to Advanced Manufacturing opened funding for the STEM+M program (Science Technology Engineering Math + Manufacturing) for middle schools. Alden invited Depew and Maryvale to join the project. This Fall, all three schools launched this high-tech program for their middle school with federal funding approaching $1 million. Our eighth grade students are gaining exposure to CNC Milling, 3D printing, materials science, and more as they work to consider the various educational and career paths in front of them.



Bulldog Manufacturing Attends IMTS

The Bulldog Manufacturing students and advisors participated in the International Manufacturing and Technology Show (IMTS) in Chicago during September 2026 in partnership with BuildSubmarines.com, a workforce development entity charged with ramping up the submarine industrial base of manufacturing suppliers. Local industrial partners Moog, Pfannenberg USA, and Zoladz along with profits from past year Bulldog Manufacturing efforts made this possible.

Our students engaged with businesses from around the world and inspired other students from across our country about how a student-run enterprise can promote awareness in manufacturing careers. With 90,000-plus people and cutting-edge technology filling the McCormick Center, the students got first-hand experience about the opportunities in front of them.





Safety Week at APS



At the beginning of October, Alden Primary School took part in the Distict-Wide Safety Week with a variety of safety-themed activities. In addition to practicing some of our required fire and emergency drills, classes took part in several other special events.



Fire Safety Day

All K-2 students got a chance to meet some real-life heroes from the Townline Volunteer Fire Department. Volunteers visited the Primary School to review fire safety rules and promote safe behaviors at home. Students got a chance to see the fire trucks up close, talk about the equipment, and ask questions to the firefighters!

Safety Assemblies with Mr. Stepnick

Creating a safe, supportive learning environment is our top priority at Alden Primary School. During Safety Week, students participated in special assemblies with APS principal, Mr. Stepnick, to review the essential rules that keep everyone safe throughout the school day.

During the assemblies, Mr. Stepnick focused on three key areas:

In the Cafeteria: Students discussed the importance of chewing food slowly and staying in their own personal space. To help protect classmates with food allergies, Mr. Stepnick also reminded everyone about our strict "no food sharing" rule.

On the Bus: Safe travels begin with good bus habits! Students reviewed expectations to remain seated and face forward, keep aisles clear of backpacks and feet, refrain from eating or drinking, and use quiet voices so drivers can focus on the road.

On the Playground: Recess is a favorite part of the day, and keeping it fun means keeping it safe. Students discussed keeping their bodies under control and using playground equipment properly, including staying on your bottom when using swings and slides!



Making a Splash!

It has been a busy start to the year for our Physical Education Department! In health class, fourth graders have been exploring the human body, learning about our bones, muscles, organs, and body systems and how they all work together. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a swim unit this fall. These experiences are helping students develop a better understanding of their bodies while building healthy habits and skills that will benefit them for years to come.





Learning Through Life Skills!

Our 12:1 classroom is excited to introduce a weekly treat cart for adults in the building called Bulldog Bites and Delights.

Each week, students work together to prepare and fill orders, deliver treats, and make change. This gives students a chance to practice important life skills, including money management, counting, communication, problem-solving, and following directions. The treat cart also provides opportunities to strengthen social skills by greeting staff, taking orders, engaging in conversations, and working as a team.

We are grateful to the Alden Intermediate PTO for helping us get this initiative off the ground and supporting an opportunity that makes learning both fun and meaningful for our students!





Bike Bus Success!

The Alden Bike Bus hosted two rides this past September, welcoming students, faculty, parents, and community members for another great start to the school year! Our new third grade students were especially excited to join in. In total, nearly 300 riders participated across the two rides! We are excited for the Alden Bike Bus when it returns in May 2027!







A Classroom Quest

Alden Intermediate kicked off the school year by welcoming students and families to Open House. Families got a glimpse of daily school life by exploring classrooms, speaking with teachers, and participating in interactive activities. For example, Mrs. Leon's third grade class transformed their room into a classroom quest, where families rotated through activities focused on creativity, problem-solving, and third grade learning. The evening was a great reminder of the importance of connecting and partnering with families!





Alden Bulldog Council Update

This year, the Alden Bulldog Council (ABC) is led by Olivia Braun as President, Ashlynn Bleyle as Vice President, Zoe Mussri as Treasurer, Alisabelle Dorsey as Secretary and Abby Fitzsimmons as Public Relations. ABC meets at least once a month to work on a variety of projects. All students are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly meetings and activities. Information about meetings is on the daily announcements, on the second floor tv and in emails.

The students have done an excellent job brainstorming and planning new spirit days and fundraisers as well as activities for this school year. We will continue to support local charities throughout the year by holding various events such as pajama/hat days, spirit weeks, Socktober, canned food drive and more. Some events will suggest a monetary donation, and a minimum of $1.00 is suggested to participate. We are also having discussions on the possibility of hosting our annual holiday-themed competition, Holiday Follies. This is a series of minute-to-win-it-type games that promotes fun, friendly competition between the three grade levels.

Speaking of events, we were excited to participate in Socktober once again this year. Students collected donations of socks, hats, gloves, scarves, and soap throughout the month of October, with all donations supporting St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. The homeroom that collected the most donations won breakfast.

We have already had a few spirit days this year and it was so much fun to see the students participate in the various themed days. Some of the themes included Red/White/Blue or Bills Day, Wear Orange Day for Unity Day, and Pajama Day. We hosted our first Fun Night of the year in October and it was so fun to see everyone having a good time and in their Halloween costumes and attire.

In honor of National Principals Month (October), the students were excited to show Mr. Smith how grateful they are for all he does at Alden Middle School. All students were given an opportunity to record a reason(s) they love our school and/or things they wanted to thank Mr. Smith for. The officers had fun going through all the responses from the students.

ABC will also be working with the students at the Intermediate School again this year. ABC facilitates a discussion, does a read aloud with a book that correlates with our theme and assists the younger students in a follow-up activity. The students are always excited to demonstrate what a good leader and role model looks like and have a little fun at the same time.

ABC would like to wish all of our Alden families a great school year!





Students Enjoy Library

The Middle School library is preparing to pack up for a complete renovation of the learning space in December. In the meantime, students and teachers continue to enjoy the library for classes, clubs, and other activities.

The library hosted a Scholastic Book Fair in September. Thanks to the support of our students, families, teachers, and staff, we raised funds that will be used to purchase additional books and supplies for the library this year. We sincerely appreciate the help of our amazing PTO and volunteers who made the fair possible.

In addition to visiting the library for the book fair, classes have participated in a variety of engaging learning experiences. Here is a sample of some of the activities students have enjoyed this fall:

• 6th grade: Students completed a Pokémon-themed reading scavenger hunt with their ELA classes to learn how to use the Middle School Library. They will soon be learning more about our databases and how to use Sora to access eBooks and audiobooks. In health classes, students researched hygiene topics and created books to share with younger students.

• 7th grade: ELA students completed a genre personality quiz to help them discover books to read throughout the year. In social studies, students conducted exploratory research on the Atlantic Slave Trade to understand its impact on people, societies, and economies around the world.

• 8th grade: Students reflected on their reading habits and goals before selecting books for an independent reading project. In social studies, students researched contemporary issues and controversial topics in preparation for class discussions and debates.

The library also hosts Gamer Club and LEGO Club meetings, as well as Lunch Bunch gatherings, read-aloud lunches, and other school-wide activities.

Throughout the renovation, Ms. DiSalvo will continue to visit classrooms and circulate books to students and staff. We are looking forward to an exciting and adventurous year of learning and reading!



Students Explore Cultural Traditions

Mr. Cox and Mrs. Tanner's English students participated in an interactive activity to explore the importance of cultural traditions. After conducting research on different traditions, students shared their findings and taught their classmates about the customs and practices of various cultures. This hands-on activity helped students learn from one another while preparing to read a short story centered around a small town's tradition. Students were encouraged to consider how traditions shape communities, influence people's beliefs and actions, and impact society as a whole.





Mountain Bike Lesson

High school physical education classes took advantage of the nice fall weather and utilized community resources by mountain biking through the Joe Panza Nature Trail and Alden Town Park. Before we headed out, students learned about basic bike care and maintenance. What a great lifetime activity!



Parade Performance

In September, the High School band got the amazing opportunity to play at the Marilla Ag Day Parade alongside many other bands. Students spent their initial weeks of the school year learning music and marching in preparation for the event. Overall, our first Ag Day Parade was an amazing learning experience for the band and our students are looking forward to our next opportunity.



Alden Students See Impact of Donations

Alden High School students recently toured ConnectLife to learn about the life-saving impact of blood donation and the importance of organ and tissue donation. Students gained a better understanding of how these donations help individuals and families in our community and how they can make a difference by becoming donors and encouraging others to do the same.

You can make a difference, too! Please consider supporting our upcoming blood drives:

- Saturday, January 23 – Alden Community Center

Every donation has the potential to save lives. Thank you for supporting ConnectLife (Andrew's Army) and helping make a difference in our community!

ConnectLife

Spooktackular Was an Amazing Success!

Spooktackular was an amazing success! More than 150 student volunteers in grades 6–12 helped make the evenings extra special, and created a fun and memorable experience for families throughout our community. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and willingness to give their time helped make this event truly extraordinary.

A huge thank you to the Alden Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition for organizing and hosting this family-friendly, drug- and alcohol-free event. We are grateful for their continued commitment to bringing our community together and providing opportunities for families to enjoy safe, healthy fun.

Winter Athletics Recap

Girls Tennis
Varsity Coaches: Ashley Wagner & Steve Insinna

The Girls' Varsity Tennis team finished in third place in Division 4, with a division record of 4-4 and an overall record of 9-5. Highlights included taking East Aurora to three third-set tiebreakers and defeating East Aurora in first singles and third doubles. Hailey Mederski, Lauren Pfentner, and Paige Bogumil were named Division All-Stars. Lily Faatz continued at the second-singles position, where she played three very long matches against East Aurora and Springville. The team graduated 10 seniors and hopes to rebuild with younger players.



Cheerleading
Varsity Coach: Lindsey Handley

Our cheerleaders have had an exciting season filled with hard work, dedication, and team spirit! At their first competition, they earned an impressive second-place finish out of six teams, reflecting their commitment and teamwork. In addition to competing, they proudly cheer on our football players at games, bringing energy, enthusiasm, and school spirit to the sidelines. With three more competitions ahead, the team continues to work hard, improve its skills, and prepare to shine. We can't wait to see what they accomplish at their next competitions!



Volleyball
Varsity Coach: Rachel Donner, JV Coach: Olivia MacDonald, Modified Coaches: Rachel Hiller and Bella Decker



The girls' volleyball program has had a very successful season so far. The modified team is nearing the end of its season with only two losses, and players across the roster have shown great skill development. The JV team is undefeated, with only two matches remaining. The girls have persevered through close sets and big comebacks. The varsity team is second in the division, with two regular-season games remaining. Team chemistry has been a major asset and will hopefully carry the team to a deep playoff run.
Go Bulldogs!

Cross Country
Varsity Coach: Liz Osucha, Modified: Ashley Bojt

The Alden Varsity Boys' and Girls' Cross Country teams have enjoyed a successful season, with both teams finishing the regular season with 3-2 records. The Bulldogs proudly hosted the 40th Annual Bulldog Stampede and demonstrated dedication, resilience, and teamwork throughout the year. Every varsity athlete has qualified for ECICs, highlighting the program's depth and consistency. The boys' team captains are Aaron Pruetz, Gabe Hillman, and Kirk Panek, while the girls' team captains are Allie Sentz, Kaelyn Daigler, and Jessica Okoniewski. As postseason competition begins, the Bulldogs continue to showcase hard work, perseverance, leadership, and pride on every course.
This season, the modified cross-country team showcased incredible growth, with every runner achieving personal records and faster times by the final race. Fueled by a strong team bond and encouragement, the athletes supported each other through every mile, building their endurance and making lasting friendships.



Golf
Coach: Paul Casillo

The Alden Boys' Varsity Golf Team ended an outstanding season tied for first place in the ECIC Small School North Division, with a 7-1 division record. The Bulldogs' only loss came against a strong Iroquois squad.

Continued on next page.



The starting lineup included eighth-grader Sam Long; sophomore Ayden Sims; juniors Eli Peresan, Landon Moretti, and Frankie Jay; and seniors Jonas Jahn, Michael Clifford, and Jack Sperduti.
Sam Long led the team throughout the season as its top scorer. He represented Alden at the ECIC Boys' Golf League Championship at Gowanda Country Club, where he placed 15th among the league's top 70 golfers. His performance qualified him for the Section VI Championships this spring.Congratulations to all the golfers on a successful season!

Swimming
Coach: Mindy Doktor



The Alden Girls' Varsity Swim and Dive Team has had an impressive season, taking on tough competition and rising to the challenge. Throughout the season, swimmers achieved numerous personal-best and season-best times, and the team earned multiple first-place finishes, with 14 of 17 athletes qualifying for championship meets. The team's two divers also demonstrated tremendous growth, significantly improving their scores throughout the season. Beyond their accomplishments in the pool, these athletes continue to demonstrate outstanding teamwork and sportsmanship, consistently cheering each other on and supporting one another through both victories and defeats. Go Bulldogs!



Football
Varsity Coaches: Sean Klyczek, Adam Frank, and Robert Hayes

The Alden Varsity Football team has an overall record of 3-3 and currently sits fourth in the division, following two straight league wins against Akron and Tonawanda. Senior captains quarterback Brody Peresan, running back Aidan Phillips, and offensive tackle Noah Golas lead an offense that has averaged an impressive 24 points per game. The leading tacklers on defense are Aidan Phillips, Ryan Marino, Devan Chudoba, and Jack Lombardi. The team is currently in a playoff position and will look to maintain its momentum with two home league games remaining in the regular season.
The Alden modified football team (grades 7–8) is thriving, with 30 dedicated players. Every athlete receives consistent playing time, building a strong foundation, learning the game, and preparing for future varsity success.

Boys Soccer
Varsity Coaches: Allen Turton, Jeff Long, & Justin Walz
JV Coach: Matt Moretti, Modified Coach: Tim Kasper

The Boys' Varsity Soccer team concluded its regular season with an undefeated 14-0-2 record. The team clinched its division championship for the second consecutive year and is currently ranked No. 2 among WNY small schools and No. 7



among New York State Class B schools. The team's balance of talent and work ethic across all positions is reflected in its six shutout victories. Every player on the 23-man roster has earned a goal or assist, including both goalkeepers. The JV and modified teams also have winning records while competing against larger schools to find appropriate competition.

Girls Soccer
Varsity Coach: Lou Mussari, JV Coach: Allison Gibson
Modified Coach: Tammy Whiteford & Meghan Whiteford

The Alden Girls' Soccer program enjoyed a memorable season filled with growth and opportunities for development at every level. The varsity team enters the playoffs as the No. 3 seed after an outstanding season. We are especially proud to have the leading goal scorer in Section VI and a player who broke Alden's all-time school record for assists. Equally important is our commitment to building a strong program, with several JV players earning varsity opportunities and making meaningful contributions.
Our JV team also made strides throughout the season, continuing to develop skills, build confidence, and learn the importance of teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship. The players showed a willingness to learn and improve while supporting one another on and off the field. Across all levels, our goal remains to develop not only better soccer players but also stronger teammates, leaders, and individuals.



2026 Wall of Fame Inductees

Sean Guyett
Class of 2002
Football, Basketball, Track & Field, Powerlifting

A standout three-sport athlete at Alden, Sean Guyett competed in varsity football, basketball, and track from 1998–2002. As a four-year starter and senior co-captain in football, he earned First Team All-WNY honors at running back, Second Team All-State recognition, Class B WNY Offensive MVP, and was named a Connolly Cup finalist and Andy Benson Award recipient. Guyett finished his Alden career with 3,404 rushing yards and 242 points, ranking among the most accomplished offensive players in school history.

He was also a two-year varsity basketball starter, earning Second Team All-ECIC honors, and a sectional qualifier in track. Guyett's athletic success extended to powerlifting, where he won the 178-pound division at the Cleve Hill Championship with a 1,005-pound total.

Following Alden, he continued his football career at Ohio Northern University, earning a varsity letter in 2003. Guyett later remained involved in athletics by coaching his daughters in soccer, basketball, and softball.



Kimberly Knauff Penzone
Class of 1989
Basketball, Volleyball, Track & Field, Cross Country, Cheerleading

A remarkably versatile athlete, Kimberly Knauff Penzone earned 11 varsity letters at Alden in track, cross country, basketball, and volleyball. She helped launch Alden's four-year run of track division championships from 1985–1988 and earned All-Division honors in the 400-meter hurdles. In 1987, she became the ECIC champion in the event, and in 1988 she was part of Alden's school-record 3,200-meter relay team that won a sectional championship and qualified for the New York State Championships. Penzone later added an ECIC title in the 1,600-meter relay in 1989 and placed fourth at the 1987 cross-country sectionals.

She continued her athletic career at Capital University, playing three seasons of Division III soccer and earning scholar-athlete recognition before later serving as an assistant women's soccer coach.

Penzone's passion for competition has continued throughout her life. She has completed more than 50 marathons and ultramarathons, including twelve 100-mile finishes, the Trans Alpine Run through the Alps, Ironman Louisville, and numerous mountain races and climbs. She also earned a gold medal in the 800 meters at the 2021 Ohio Senior Olympics and continues to give back by helping others pursue their own endurance and athletic goals.



Kevin Okiec
"The Voice of the Alden Bulldogs"

Known throughout the community as the "Voice of the Alden Bulldogs," Kevin Okiec has dedicated decades to supporting and promoting Alden Athletics. His service began in middle school as a varsity football team manager under coaches Harry Hill and Mike Hilburger, assisting with equipment, medical supplies, statistics, and countless other responsibilities that helped the program succeed.

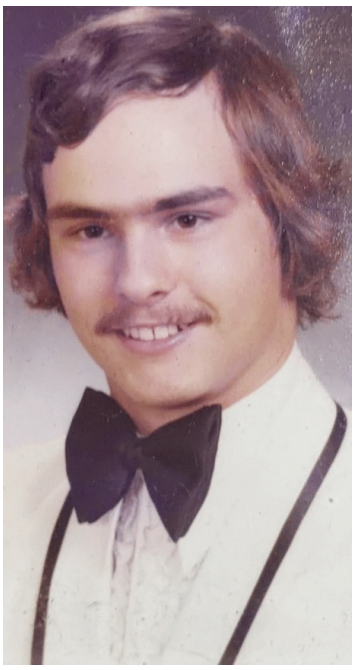


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Okiec later supported Alden's basketball programs as a statistician, shot-clock operator, and public-address announcer before taking over behind the microphone for Bulldog football. He has become a fixture at home varsity football games and has also served for more than a decade as a public-address announcer for Section VI playoff contests, earning recognition as the "Voice of Section VI."

Beyond the press box, Okiec has remained an enthusiastic ambassador for Alden Athletics and an active community volunteer. Through his unmistakable voice, enthusiasm, and commitment to generations of Bulldog athletes, Okiec has helped make Alden sporting events memorable for players, coaches, families, alumni, and fans.

Frank Bundy
Class of 1977
Baseball Player and Coach



A dominant pitcher and championship performer, Frank E. Bundy was a four-year varsity baseball player at Alden from 1973–1977. A two-time First Team All-League selection, he helped lead the Bulldogs to three division championships and the 1976 Class B Sectional Championship. During that championship run, Bundy threw a sectional no-hitter and remarkably earned complete-game victories on Friday, Monday, and Wednesday. He finished his Alden career with 23 victories and a 0.92 earned-run average, establishing himself as one of the premier pitchers in program history.

Bundy continued his baseball career at Niagara County Community College, where he served as team captain and led the team in victories in 1978. He also competed for the Alden town team for more than a decade.

His contributions to baseball continued from the dugout. Bundy coached at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, Alden, and Erie Community College, including several seasons specializing as a pitching coach. Through both his accomplishments on the mound and his commitment to developing future players, Bundy has made a lasting contribution to the baseball tradition of Alden and Western New York.

ALDEN CSD TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT The Alden CSD

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A New Chapter for the Intermediate Library

The Alden Intermediate Library has a fresh new look! Improvements made over the summer include an updated layout, new furniture, and a dedicated instructional space for teachers to use throughout the day. Recently, Mrs. Hecht's class joined Ms. DiSalvo for a book tasting, where students sampled books by reading a few pages before sharing their reviews. These updates are helping transform the library into an inviting space that encourages students to explore new books and grow their love of reading!

