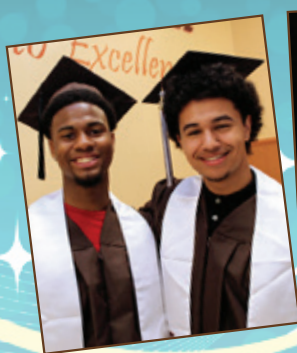




# EAST ROCHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT School District News

Graduation 2019



## Congratulations to the Class of 2019

The long-awaited chords of “Pomp and Circumstance” signaled the end of high school and the beginning of the future for the East Rochester High School Class of 2019. Fifty-nine graduates filed into the high school auditorium on June 22 as students, but left as alumni. Proud families, parents and friends held back tears as graduates took their places on stage and the East Rochester HS Select Choir sang “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

This year, the entire class donned brown robes, a change from the traditional brown and white combination. In addition, each student wore a white stole with the ER logo, donated by the East Rochester Alumni Foundation. The class was introduced and guests were welcomed by Board of Education President Jennifer Majewski Lesinski, who spoke about overcoming adversity. High School Principal Casey van Harssel then gave an address about the definition of success and how it changes over time.

“You are sitting on stage today having successfully completed a journey 14 years in the making,” said van Harssel. “The new successes that await you are yours to define, yours to reach, and yours to celebrate.”

Salutatorian Cameron Chambers-Silva spoke about how special it was going through a school where everyone knows each other. “When I walk down the hallways I know every teacher along the way and they know me,” stated Chambers-Silva. “This connection to the school creates an extraordinary environment where kids that face any obstacle, like the one my family did last year, have an amazing support network to help them.”

Each class member then crossed the stage to receive their diploma from van Harssel or a current or former staff member of their choosing. This year 30 current and former East Rochester staff and board members presented graduates with their diplomas.

Formal commencement ceremonies concluded with a valedictory address by John Krautwurst, who offered his peers words of reassurance for the future. “There are a lot more challenges in life that we have not faced yet,” Krautwurst said. “However, I am positive that East Rochester has prepared us for those difficulties. We are ready for college, we are ready to join the labor force, and we are ready to take this world by storm.”



### Our District's Mission

The Mission of the East Rochester Union Free School District is to prepare students to be college and career ready and to provide a quality education in a safe environment where all students develop the abilities, attitudes and values necessary for responsible, productive citizenship.

### Our Vision

The Vision of the East Rochester Union Free School District is that students will learn through the highest quality instruction which recognizes each student's strengths, talents, interests, learning styles and rates of learning, using developmentally-appropriate methods.

### Top Ten Achieving Students from the Class of 2019

1. John Krautwurst
2. Cameron Chambers-Silva
3. Owen Reiss
4. Samantha Freiburger
5. Talor Marren
6. Wesley Dorow
7. Johnathan Gates
8. Jessica Roberts
9. Gabrielle Bupp
10. Gavin Bathgate

### Inside this Issue

- Single-point entry
- School tax payment change
- Spring sports recap
- Alumni news

## Single point of entry coming **NEW!**

In an effort to increase security and provide the highest level of safety for East Rochester students and staff, the district will begin utilizing a secure single point of entry for both the elementary and high schools during school hours.

**Beginning Sept. 5, all visitors will be required to enter and exit the building at the high school main entrance from 8:40 a.m. to 2 p.m. during school days.** Afternoon UPK families will continue to pick up and drop off at the elementary school entrance.

This security measure is a component of the future capital project security upgrades coming in the summer of 2020. The district holds the safety of students and staff in the highest regard and appreciates your patience while it works through the implementation of this new procedure on the East Rochester campus.



## Harris wins PTA Distinguished Service Award

Scott Harris was awarded the PTA Distinguished Service Award on May 15. Harris, a teacher at East Rochester for 36 years, was nominated by Karrie Beehler.

Beehler's nomination read in part, "One of the most kind, understanding, patient, and dedicated individuals I have met, Mr. Harris has truly made a difference in the lives of the students he has worked with. The way he interacts with students and provides them with the level of respect they deserve is evident in all he does."

Throughout his career in East Rochester, Harris has helped to create an environment where all students, teachers, administrators and community members feel successful. In 2017, Harris was recognized by WROC-TV 8 with a Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching.



## Introducing Sarah Callahan



Sarah Callahan has joined the East Rochester Union Free School District as executive director of curriculum, instruction and professional learning. Callahan has been serving as the director of school improvement for the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership for the past five years. This position allowed her to work with varied groups of educators across multiple school districts.

Callahan was selected after an in-depth and thorough interview process that began with 46 applicants. Throughout the hiring process, Callahan was impressed by the connections and commitments that were exhibited by faculty members and students. Interview committee members were taken by Callahan's knowledge, skills and enthusiasm associated with her work.

## Voters approve 2019-20 school budget

*Thank you to the ERUFSD community for your support.*

The East Rochester Union Free School District 2019-20 School Budget passed on May 21. The results are as follows:

### *School Budget*

Yes—297

No—90

### *Board of Education*

Vincent Antonicelli— 361

(three-year term)



At its July 9 re-organization meeting, the board of education elected officers for the 2019-20 school year. Pictured above are (back row l-r) Student Representative Michael Rashchiatore, Board Members Patrick Flanagan, Matt Hogan, Tim Henry, (front row l-r) Vice President Vincent Antonicelli, President Jennifer Majewski Lesinski and Board Clerk Kristen Adler

## School tax payment change **NEW!**

School tax season is once again quickly approaching. There are two ways to pay your school taxes: by mailing your payment to a secure processing center or paying in person. Residents who wish to pay in person can now do so at the East Rochester Village Offices during the following hours: Monday-Wednesday from 9-11 a.m. and Thursday-Friday from 2-4 p.m.

If you have any questions related to your tax bill or the above instructions please call (585) 248-6398. If you have any questions specifically relating to your assessment or STAR exemptions, please call 586-3553 and ask for the East Rochester Assessor's office.



## Class of 2023 visits Washington, D.C.

Fifty-seven eighth-graders woke up before the sun and boarded a bus headed for our nation's capital on May 28. Students began their three-day trip with a visit to the Capitol building, stopping to tour the Crypt Room, Rotunda and National Statuary Hall. The next leg of their journey was spent at the World War II and Vietnam War memorials. The class left a wreath next to Frank Beltran's name, in honor of the East Rochester graduate who gave his life in service of his country during the Vietnam War.

Students were then able to tour the Holocaust Museum, Lincoln Memorial, Air and Space Museum, African-American History Museum and other museums. After the museum stops, students visited Arlington National Cemetery and observed the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The students' trip concluded with a stop at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Students also enjoyed the many sights of the Baltimore Harbor, spending time on paddle boats in the harbor.



## ER students become US citizens

Congratulations to East Rochester students Ali Aziz, Amany Aziz, Hadeer Aziz, Maisam Aziz, Arwin Crisostomo and LarSay Wah, who all became naturalized U.S. citizens this school year. Faculty and staff members celebrated the group with a cake and many well wishes.



## Elementary students cheer on bicyclists

Hundreds of people on bicycles rode through our campus on May 17 as part of the Ride for Missing Children.

The annual ride consists of pedaling 100 miles around the Rochester area, two-by-two, escorted by local law enforcement and stopping at schools along the way. It is the biggest annual fundraiser for The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).

This year ER served as a rest area for lunch where the bike ride participants were able to rest and refresh before continuing along their course. The week before the ride students were treated to an educational pep rally by the NCMEC where they learned all about online safety strategies including not sharing personal info and telling an adult when something is suspicious.

Thank you to the ER Elementary staff who helped coordinate efforts for this event and to students who were enthusiastic in their support of these riders!





## Inaugural class of Urban-Suburban students graduate with ER diplomas

Graduation was extra sweet for some members of the Class of 2019. Four years after coming to East Rochester through the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program, Alexandria Carver, Rosalina Correa-Buntly, Yakira Cunningham, Anicia Lee, Alexander Rans, LarSay Wah and David Warren are now graduates of East Rochester High School.

East Rochester began participating in the Urban-Suburban program in September 2015, when these students were freshmen. Over the past four years, these students have become part of the East Rochester community as more than just students. Several participated in athletics, the arts and other extracurricular activities.

"My time in East Rochester has been very welcoming and heartwarming," said Correa-Buntly. "I made lots of friends and participated in activities such as musical, indoor and outdoor track and volleyball. I'm grateful that I had the opportunity to receive my education in ER."

Teachers and staff members shared memories and messages about

these students. Among those messages were comments that the students were "great additions to East Rochester" who were "a positive influence on the school community." Others remarked that these students were "responsible, focused and worked hard" and had "an incredible work ethic and sense of determination."

"As a result of participating in the Urban Suburban Program, our school is a more nurturing place," said High School Principal Casey van Harssel. "Our school has increased opportunities for learning about race and the values that we share as people. We are growing to recognize the shared responsibility we have to be respectful of each other and that we are accountable for how we think and behave."



Left to right: Yakira Cunningham, Alexander Rans, Anicia Lee, David Warren, Rosalina Correa-Buntly, Lar Say Wah. Not pictured: Alexandria Carver

A total of 48 students in grades 6-12 were enrolled in the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program in the 2018-19 school year. The program is coordinated through Monroe One BOCES. It is the first and oldest voluntary desegregation program in the United States.

### Moving Up Day tradition continues

A more-than-80-year tradition is still going strong at East Rochester High School. Moving Up Day was held on May 24 complete with chants, songs, roasts and more!

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors began the morning with performances for the entertainment competition, then seniors performed while results were being tallied. In the end, the Class of 2020 took first place, an honor

that the Class of 2019 held for three years straight.

After the entertainment competition, the junior-senior roast featured Jenny Adler and Alex Hartman representing the junior class and Katie Case and Cameron Chambers-Silva representing the senior class. This humorous segment of the ceremony was added in the last few years and is all in good fun. The annual passing of the spade then signified the good spirit between the two classes, where graduating seniors placed the responsibility of leadership into the hands of the incoming senior class.

After the formal ceremony, students crowded the athletic fields to participate in games and a pie-in-the-face booth.



#### Moving Up Day Court

**King:** Austin Mack  
**Queen:** Francesca Alfieri  
**Princes:** Wesley Dorow, David Warren, Mario Vega, Owen Reiss  
**Princesses:** Samantha Wagner, Amalia Bridson, Gabrielle Bupp, Abigail Weltman  
**Bishop:** Talor Marren

## Marren selected as Outstanding Senior

Each year the Monroe County Council of School Superintendents (MCCOSS) recognizes one senior from every high school in Monroe County at the Dr. Michael O'Laughlin Outstanding Senior event. Seniors are selected based on academics, leadership and service. At this year's event on May 22 senior Talor Marren received this distinguished honor.

Marren has participated in a number of extracurricular activities during her ER career, including student council, field hockey, National Honor Society, the high school musical, Róisín Dubh and more. She has represented ER at the national level, participating in the All-National Honor Ensembles Concert Band, and at the state level, taking part in All-State Symphonic Orchestra and NYS Summer School of the Arts. In addition to all of these, Marren volunteers her time for various organizations. She plans to attend the University of Cincinnati in the fall to study clarinet performance and music education.



Acting Superintendent Richard Stutzman presented Talor Marren with the Outstanding Senior award

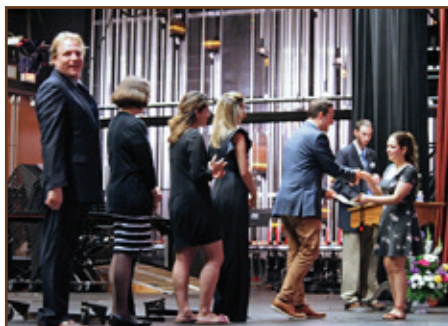


## Eighth-graders say goodbye to middle school

It was a packed house at the Eighth-Grade Recognition Ceremony on June 18, as friends and family honored the 72 students who comprise East Rochester's Class of 2023.

Students were welcomed by Assistant Principal Kevin D. Cafalone, who introduced keynote speaker and former East Rochester Jr./Sr. High School Principal Jim Karg. Karg spoke to students about overcoming hardships and the strength of the ER School Family.

After the keynote, teachers acknowledged award winners in various subject areas then teachers, counselors and school administrators congratulated each student after receiving a certificate of completion. A beautiful reception followed in the cafeteria. Special thanks to Michelle Michalski and Juana Morreale for organizing reception.



## Fifth-graders D.A.R.E. to be drug free at moving up ceremony

The East Rochester Class of 2026 processed into the high school auditorium for their moment in the spotlight. After a welcome address from Principal Marisa Philp, the fifth-grade chorus sang "A Million Dreams" from the Greatest Showman. Fifth-graders were then presented with academic awards and NYS recognition awards. The ceremony ended with School Resource Officer Andy Hildreth and fifth-grade staff presenting D.A.R.E. awards and certificates.



## Class of 2031 and Class of 2032 celebrate with songs



Kindergarten and Pre-K students marked the end of the school year with a performance for their families and friends. The Class of 2031 sang songs about friendship and all the new things they learned to prepare for first grade. Meanwhile the Class of 2032 brought smiles to each audience member's face with patriotic tunes such as "Grand Old Flag." Congratulations to all of these learners!



## ER athletes triumph at Special Olympics

What began with an energetic send-off from their classmates, concluded with proud achievements for the East Rochester student-athletes who competed in the Special Olympics this year.

A small group of students traveled to Bloomfield High School on May 17 to compete in the track and field event. In total, seven student-athletes, four high school students and three elementary school students participated in one running event and one throwing event. They brought home multiple ribbons and had a memorable experience competing and bonding with their high school buddies who volunteered their time to support them throughout the day. Thirteen additional high school students attended to assist with events, lunch and other duties.

"The Special Olympics is a great way to promote inclusion," said physical education and health teacher Nicole Caruso. "This is one of our most favorite days of the year and we hope more students will join us next year."

A special thank you to members of the East Rochester Alumni Foundation, who provided the team with tie-dye T-shirts, and to the varsity track and field team for providing the entire team with snacks and drinks.



## Swim with us this summer!

The next and final session of swim lessons begins on July 29 and runs through Aug. 9 at the heated Kate Gleason Memorial Outdoor Pool, 109 East Avenue. Classes are taught by certified instructors using a proven curriculum, aligned with skills progression and objectives. Class levels require skills progression, building on techniques and endurance taught at previous levels. Teachers reserve the right to place swimmers where they will be most successful.

The fee per session for district residents is \$50. The non-district resident fee is \$60. Makeup lessons will be held Aug. 12-16. Register online at [www.erschools.org](http://www.erschools.org).

9 a.m.	Level 5 (ages 9-12) and Level 6 (ages 11+)
9:30 a.m.	Level 3 (ages 7-9) and Level 4 (ages 8-11)
10 a.m.	Level 2 (ages 5-7)
10:30 a.m.	Level 1 (ages 4-6)
11 a.m.	Water Babies (ages 6 mos.-3 yrs.)
MWF	Little Guppies (ages 3-5 yrs.)

### Season swim passes

	ERUFSD resident fee	Non- resident fee
Individual season pass	\$85	\$95
Season pass for family of 4	\$265	\$275
Season pass for family of 5	\$295	\$305
Season pass for family of 6	\$325	\$335

\*walk-ins are \$5 per visit

### Punch passes

	ERUFSD resident fee	Non- resident fee
Individual punch pass	\$40	\$70
Season pass for family of 3	\$60	\$90
Season pass for family of 4	\$80	\$110
Season pass for family of 5	\$95	\$125
Season pass for family of 6	\$115	\$145



## STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE SAM URZETTA ALUMNI CLASSIC

FRIDAY, AUG. 2

LIMA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB  
7470 CASE ROAD, LIMA, NY 14485

REGISTRATION, COFFEE, DONUTS AND  
PUTTING CONTEST AT 7:15 A.M.

TOURNAMENT START TIME AT 9 A.M.



The Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic golf tournament honors dear friend and founding board member Sam Urzetta. The event, hosted by the East Rochester Alumni Foundation, is the organization's major source of the revenues used to underwrite "Excellence in Education" grants which benefit all students in the East Rochester Union Free School District. In 2018, the SUAC generated more than \$18,000 for the Alumni Foundation. Since its inception, this tournament has raised in excess of \$160,000.

Registration forms are available in the superintendent's office at 222 Woodbine Avenue, at the East Rochester Village Office at 317 Main Street, at Lima Golf and Country Club or may be printed from the East Rochester Alumni Foundation's web page at [www.erschools.org/alumni](http://www.erschools.org/alumni).

## Congratulations to our 2019 retirees!

The East Rochester Union Free School District thanks you for your years of service and dedication to our students. Enjoy your much-deserved retirement!



Left to right: Audrey Taylor, Kathy Vosburgh, Betty Gering, Mary Ann Marron, Scott Harris. Not pictured: Kim Cicero, Jose Correa and Mary Gullace.

## 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award

The 2019 recipient of the East Rochester Alumni Foundation Distinguished Alumni Award is David Jenkins. Jenkins is a 1991 graduate of East Rochester High School and the current executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Cleveland Browns.



Photo credit:  
Cleveland Browns

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes former East Rochester graduates for noteworthy lifetime accomplishments and contributions. Jenkins leads the Browns' daily business operations and the team's long-term vision, directing all organizational goals related to financial management, revenue generation, stadium operations, legal, information technology, business analytics and administration. He also serves as the Browns' primary government relations contact, working closely with the City of Cleveland and City of Berea on club-related matters.

The award is presented at the East Rochester Alumni Foundation's Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic Golf Tournament, which is held each year on the first Friday of August. For a full list of past winners go to [www.erschools.org/alumni](http://www.erschools.org/alumni).

## SPRING SPORTS RECAP

The East Rochester athletic community had another successful spring season. There were a number of strong performances from both team sports and individual athletes. On the girls' side of athletics, a number of East Rochester's female track and field athletes



had strong performances all spring. Samantha Freiberger became one of Wayne-Finger Lakes' best field athletes, continually pushing the distance further in both shot and discus. Samantha Lewis continued her outstanding freshman athletic campaign by making it to state qualifiers in the pentathlon. Topping off the female athletic side, Katie Case was selected by East Rochester's varsity coaches as the ER Female Athlete of the Year.

On the boys' side, East Rochester was quite successful on the tennis courts and baseball diamond, taking home the league title in both sports. The tennis team was led by the great play of underclassmen including Russ Domm, Chuck Domm and Mike Bupp. The doubles team of both Domm's won the Class C Sectional Championship. Meanwhile, the baseball team won the league championship on the final day of the season, knocking off perennial league power Gananda. The boys track and field team will miss the great contributions and leadership of sectional champions Cameron Chambers and Gavin Bathgate. Austin Mack was selected as the ER Male Athlete of the Year. His success on the soccer pitch, basketball court and baseball field was a joy to watch throughout his ER career.

*Thank you to the East Rochester Alumni Foundation, which tirelessly supports the efforts of the students in the East Rochester Union Free School District. The faculty, staff, administration and board of education appreciate all that the ERAF board members and East Rochester alumni do to support so many PK-12 activities throughout the school year.*



**East Rochester Union Free  
School District**

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[www.erschools.org](http://www.erschools.org)

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## Art show brightens up high school halls

The annual high school art show featured many types of artwork by students, some of which has been chosen to be included in the East Rochester UFSD school calendar. Be on the lookout for said calendar at the start of the 2019-20 school year!



Alex Taylor,  
Grade 2

Mackenzie Youngblood,  
Grade 3



## Free meals for the summer!

For the sixth year in a row, the East Rochester Union Free School District is participating in the USDA Free Summer Meals program. The program allows the district to provide meals to all ER students 18 years or younger free of charge.

Breakfast and lunch will be served daily at East Rochester MLA/Senior High School, 200 Woodbine Avenue, through Aug. 16, 2019. Breakfast will be available from 7:30-10 a.m. and lunch will be available from 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

## Dates to Know for 2019-20 School Year

### September

5 First day of school for students

### October

11 Professional Development Day (no school)

14 Columbus Day (no school)

### November

8 Parent Teacher Conferences (no school PK-5)

11 Veterans Day (no school)

27-29 Thanksgiving Recess

### December

23-Jan. 3 Holiday Recess

### January

20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no school)

### February

17-21 Mid-Winter Recess

### April

6-10 Spring Recess

### May

22-25 Memorial Day Recess