



# Greene Central School NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXVI, Number 2

Winter 2025

## From the Superintendent

Dear Greene Community:

As winter continues to unfold, we are reminded of the strength and resilience that define our community. This season may bring shorter days and colder weather, but it also offers a time for reflection and growth. Winter is a time when we come together, support one another, and continue moving forward despite the challenges the colder months may bring.

I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible commitment of our students, teachers, staff, and families. Every day, I see students persevering through challenges, educators inspiring young minds, and families providing unwavering support. Your commitment makes all the difference, ensuring that learning progress never pauses, no matter the season.

I am also deeply grateful for our community's support. Your involvement – whether through volunteering, attending events, or sharing valuable feedback – helps shape the

future of the district. It is this partnership that allows us to provide strong and enriching educational experiences for our learners. As we look ahead, we are carefully planning for the future. The development of next year's budget is underway, with a focus on ensuring that our schools have the resources needed to support student success. Thoughtful and responsible planning is key, and we remain committed to making decisions that best meet the needs of our students.

As winter continues, let's continue to carry forward the spirit of perseverance and gratitude. Together, we will keep building a promising future for our students and community. Thank you for your continued partnership!

With gratitude,

*Mrs. Lisa-Marie Carter, Ed.D.*



# CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

I wanted to provide you with an update on the previously approved project. The previously approved project was split into two phases to ensure that the construction timeline would be efficiently managed with available building aid from the State.

As with any school facility improvement, there are many steps that go into getting the required approvals from the NYS Education Department. The process includes:

1. Voter approval.
2. Identification of project specifics including detailing aspects of the work that fit into the total budget.
3. Close work with architects and project management to both price and design the project.
4. Submission of the project to the State Education Department for permits and approvals.
5. Bidding and securing of contractors for the project.

Following these steps, the project can then move into the purchasing and construction phase. Below is an overview of the project and an update for each building.

It is important to know that this larger project was broken down into smaller phases. This was done to maximize the work that can be done within a reasonable timeframe while also keeping in mind that we are keeping the project at a \$0 tax impact. This was one of the strong considerations in working to phase out the project.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL:

As you may recall, the proposed project included:

- Chimney Cap
- Canopy Column Painting
- Roof Access Ladder
- Gym Skylight
- Electrical Panel Upgrades
- Library Lighting
- Gym Operable Door
- Library Upgrades
- Playgrounds
- Nursing Space
- Interior Doors
- Emergency Exit Signage
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Office Upgrades

**Update:** We have been working closely with the architects to redesign the main office and nurse's office. These spaces have been designed with the input of the administrative team and nurse. At this time, initial renderings are in the process of being submitted for State Education Department approval. Once these are approved, the district can continue moving ahead with the renovation of these spaces.

## INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL:

As you may recall, the proposed project included:

- Chimney Cap
- Repointing Brick
- A new PA System
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Data Cabling
- Additional Staff Bathrooms
- Improved Outdoor Play Areas
- Basketball Hoops
- Playgrounds
- Carpet / VCT Flooring
- Emergency Exit Signage

**Update:** The Intermediate School project scope included safety and security updates as well as redesigning staff bathrooms and outdoor play areas. We are beginning to work on the design of these spaces.

## MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL:

As you may recall, the proposed project included:

- Stadium Turf
- Auditorium Repointing
- Window Replacement
- Window Treatments
- Repainting of the Gym
- Gym Bleacher Replacement
- Stage Wall Repointing
- Terrazzo Stair Tread
- Stairwell Heat
- Carbon Monoxide Sensors
- Electrical Panels
- Emergency Generators
- Exterior Lights
- Working Pool Phone Deck
- Guidance Suite
- Outdoor Pavillion
- PA / Communication System
- Plumbing Fixtures
- Bathrooms
- Locker Room
- Exterior Doors

**Update:** The turf has been approved by SED and is awaiting favorable weather for installation. Weather depending, our goal remains to have this completed for the spring sports season. Included in this is also the replacement of the cover of the long jump pit.

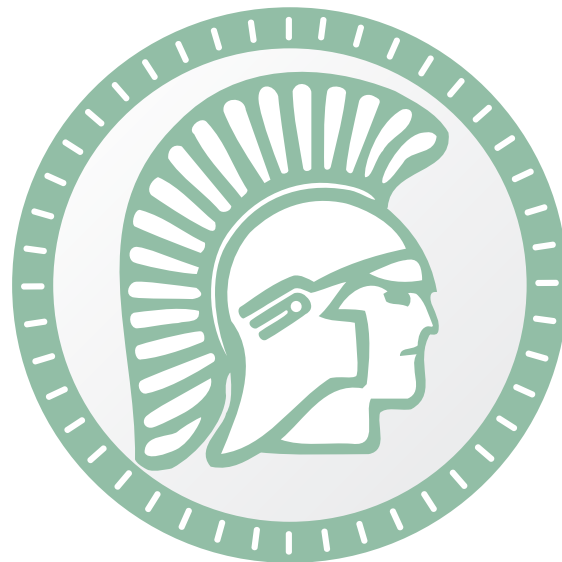
In addition to these projects, the district has also been

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working through an emergency project to remediate a leak that occurred under the middle and high school building. This leak does not compromise student or staff health and safety but did require more immediate attention and repair.

Given that some of our work is just getting ready to begin, we will not be asking for the public to vote again in February 2025, as initially shared. Instead, we are working closely with the architects to create renderings of the improved spaces to present to the public for a vote later in the calendar year, likely November 2025. This vote will then include the remainder of the proposed work such as classroom renovations at the Primary School, science and music room renovations at the Intermediate School, creation of flexible learning spaces, classroom renovations and removal and installation of fuel tank at the Middle and High School. Approaching the second vote in this manner will allow us to ensure that the continuity of work is preserved.



## High School Happenings

Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

Many amazing things are happening at the high school this time of year. At the completion of the first marking period 57 students made Honor Roll, 59 students made High Honor Roll, and 68 students made Superintendent's Honor Roll! Students are working diligently on their class grades. Since implementing 9th period as a work period, more students are taking this time to catch up on missed work as well as improve their understanding of the content being taught in class. Winter sports are well into their seasons, and Footlights is hard at work to bring the community another phenomenal show this spring. Our second dance, The Winter Ball, was held on February 1, 2025. The second marking period ended on January 24th. Be on the lookout for more phenomenal news from the High School!

—Mrs. Johnston, HS Principal

## Middle School News

Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

It's hard to believe but we are already halfway through the school year. I want to take a moment to celebrate the many successes and achievements we've experienced together so far. This has been an exciting and productive first half of the year, and I'm proud of how our entire school community has come together to make it a positive and enriching experience for everyone.

Our students have demonstrated impressive academic growth, commitment, and resilience. Many students have excelled in various subjects, showing determination and effort. From STEAM field trips to Footlights, quiz bowl competitions to writing challenges, it's been amazing to see students not only succeed but also take risks in their learning. I encourage all students to keep pushing themselves to reach their full potential.

Our extracurricular programs have flourished this year! Our athletics teams have displayed incredible teamwork, while our music and arts programs have showcased outstanding talent. Whether it's the Winter Concert, Winter Carnival or the upcoming Spring Dance, there's always something happening at Greene Middle School that highlights our vibrant and diverse student body.

As we look ahead to the second half of the year, there is so much to look forward to. We'll continue to focus on ensuring each student has the support needed to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

I encourage students to continue to set goals, embrace challenges, and take pride in their personal and academic growth. Parents and guardians, your continued support has been amazing, and together, we can help our students reach new heights.

—Mr. Wankel, MS Principal

## Exciting News from the Intermediate School!

As we approach the end of February, our Intermediate School students are gearing up for the annual Kids Heart Challenge Event. This online fundraising initiative supports the American Heart Association and promotes heart health and active lifestyles. Look out for more information coming home with your child at the end of the month.

We are also excited to continue the "One Book One School" Program. This year, we are reading "*Ban This Book*" by Alan Gratz. Each student has received their own copy to read together in school and keep afterward. This is our third year running the program, and it has been very successful and well received. Additionally, we are proud to announce that eleven Intermediate 5th graders were accepted into the All-County Elementary Band. The concert was held on January 18 at the Unadilla Valley Central School District.

After school intramurals for PE have begun. January was for 4th grade, February is for 3rd grade, and 5th grade will be in March.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 2nd Marking Period: December 9 - March 9
- Report Cards: March 13
- Student Recognition Days: March 7

For safety, all future student recognition programs will have entry only from the gym foyer entrance at the rear of the building. Please note this change.

Additionally, Our Gertrude Hawk fundraiser is occurring now to support our student activities. Your participation helps us provide enriching experiences for all our students.

Stay tuned for more details in the next Intermediate Principal's Nook newsletter!

—Mr. Sabol, IS Principal

## Primary School News

Hello Primary School Families,

Even though the temperature has gotten colder, the activity within the Primary School is hustling and bustling. We've begun our first READBow! This is where minutes students are reading daily are being counted and tied to the upcoming Super Bowl theme and attempting to see if we can reach our goals of minutes read!

We've recently had local author, Suzanne Bloom, visit and speak with our students about the process of her writing and illustrating her own books.

We have many exciting events coming up. We have our next Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) reward day upcoming on March 14. To earn this, each classroom has filled their buckets based upon the students being kind, helping one another, and being good citizens. The theme will be Disney!

Morning Program is scheduled for February 14 and 28. **We'll also be celebrating our 100th Day of School. This is tentatively scheduled for February 25th or later (barring any more snow days.)**

Greene Central School District is currently gathering information on all eligible students for Kindergarten and Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) for the 2025-2026 school year. If you have a child who qualifies, please provide the necessary details to assist us in accurate planning for the upcoming school year.

You will need to provide your child's name, date of birth, address (please provide mailing and physical, if different), and phone number. This information can be submitted via email to [khrehor@greenecsd.org](mailto:khrehor@greenecsd.org) or by calling the school office at 607-656-4023.

Please keep in mind that submitting this information does not constitute formal registration; it is simply for compiling a list of incoming students to ensure we have the correct numbers for planning purposes. We appreciate your cooperation and assistance as we prepare for next school year!

—Mr. Boeltz, PS Principal



## ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

The High School Academic Challenge team recently competed in a Quiz Bowl Tournament at SUNY Oneonta. Out of 16 teams, Greene seeded 5th and advanced to the quarterfinal round where they fell to Cooperstown. Captain *Audrey Johnson*, *Josiah Boel*, *Joseph Chernoff*, and *Andrew Roberts* all made significant contributions to lead the team so far in the competition! Congratulations!



—Mrs. Fish

## Art News

GCS Advanced Art and Ceramic students ended 2024 with a field trip to Roberson Museum. Students explored the mansion, experienced a showing from the planetarium and observed various art exhibitions.

The students teamed up with our neighbors from Raymond in celebration of Home for the Holidays. Raymond sponsored a Christmas tree which GCS Advanced Art and Ceramic students created ornaments for the provided theme, Merry Moments.

Raymond employees also voted on their favorite ornaments and the following students won in the following categories:

- **Best Use of Theme:** Hot Cocoa—*Josiah Boel*
- **Most Creative Design:** Petit Axolotl—*Morgan Puglisi*
- **Most Creative Use of Materials:** Holiday Forklift—*Laken Loveless*
- **Most Festive:** Tree Farm—*Mya Leggett-Carlin*
- **Most Eco-Friendly:** Citrus Dreams—*Alyssa Campbell*
- **Best Technical Skill:** SpongeBob—*Molly Harris*
- **People's Choice Award:** Christmas Pickle—*Melanie Specht*

The winning students' names were also engraved on the display plaque next to the tree.

Thank you to our dedicated students who created art for thousands of people to enjoy. Thank you for our supportive neighbors from Raymond who created this opportunity for students to showcase their creativity. Last but not least, thank you to the Arts in Education program who provided funding for this field trip.

The Greene High School Art Department hopes everyone enjoyed their holidays and wishes everyone an exciting and happy new year.

—Mrs. Olbrys





## Architecture Meets the Holidays!

Mrs. Jordan's 8th grade art class has been exploring the fascinating world of Art in Architecture. After learning about different types of architecture throughout history, students applied their knowledge by designing and creating miniature cardboard houses inspired by these styles.

To add a festive twist, the students decided to give their houses a holiday theme, turning the project into a friendly competition. The effort and creativity on display were incredible, and the results were some truly unique and festive artworks!

—Mrs. Jordan



## Marketing in Action!

Mrs. Jordan's STEAM class has been hard at work learning everything that goes into marketing for a business. Collaborating with Mrs. McCall's class, they developed the idea of creating goods and goodies for staff to purchase. Once they came up with a name, they worked on designing everything needed to bring their vision to life.

The students created a logo and learned how to use a Cricut to cut vinyl for branding. They explored the screen printing process to make their own aprons, used laser cutting to craft wood and rubber stamps for decorating goodie bags, and even designed personalized business cards.

This hands-on project gave students the opportunity to explore creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork, all while learning valuable real-world skills. We are proud of their hard work and look forward to seeing what they create next!

—Mrs. Jordan



## Upcoming 2025 Music Department Events

Wed, 2/12	Sweets & Sounds Chorus Fundraiser in the auditorium 6:30-8:00 p.m.
<b>Thurs, 3/6</b>	<b>Music in Our Schools Month Concert 6:30 p.m.</b> (HS Gymnasium)
Fri/Sat, 3/14-15	ACAMT Spring All-County Festival @ Greene CSD (Jr. Band, Sr. Band, A Cappella Choir, Elementary Chorus) – 3:00 p.m. concert
Fri-Sun, 3/28-30	High School Footlights presents Mary Poppins Showtimes: 7 p.m., 7 p.m., and 3 p.m.
Fri/Sat, 5/9-10 Sat, 5/17	NYSSMA** Solo Festival @ Norwich Music in the Parks Festival/Competition at Dorney Park (HS Band & HS Chorus)
<b>Wed, 5/21</b>	<b>Intermediate Spring Concert 6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Mon, 5/26</b>	<b>Memorial Day Parade &amp; Service 10:00 a.m.</b> (HS Select Chorus & Marching Band/Color Guard)
<b>Fri, 5/30</b>	<b>Spring Band Concert 6:30 p.m.</b> (MS/HS Band & Select Chorus)
<b>Tues, 6/3</b>	<b>Spring Chorus Concert w/Art Show 6:30 p.m.</b> (MS/HS Chorus & HS Jazz Band)
Fri-Sat, 6/6-6/7	Sherburne Pageant of Bands (Parade at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday)
Fri, 6/6	Moving Up Day – 8:00 a.m.
<b>Sat, 6/28</b>	<b>Graduation 10 a.m.</b> (8th-11th grade band students)

\*ACAMT (Association of Chenango-Area Music Teachers)

\*\*NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association)

## Tips for Parents from the School Health Office

Many parents ask, “When is my child sick enough to stay home from school?”

This is not always an easy question to answer! We hope that these tips can help!

A child who is sick will not be able to perform well in school and is likely to spread the illness to other children and staff. We suggest planning for childcare ahead of time so you will not be caught without a comforting place for your child to stay if he/she is ill.

Our school procedures state that you should not send your child to school if he/she has:

- Fever in the past 24 hours
- Vomiting in the past 24 hours
- Diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Strep Throat (must have been taking an antibiotic for at least 24 hours before returning to school)
- Pink eye (must have 24 hours of antibiotic eye drops before returning)
- Bad cold, with a very runny nose or bad cough, especially if it has kept the child awake at night.
- Head lice – until your child has been treated according to the treatment instructions.

If your child becomes ill at school and the teacher or school nurse feel the child is too sick to benefit from school or is contagious to other children, you will be called to come and take him/her home from school. It is essential that your child’s teacher have a phone number where you can be contacted during the day and an emergency number in the event you cannot be reached. Please be sure that arrangements can be made to transport your child home from school and that childcare is available in case of illness. If your daytime or emergency phone number changes during the year, please notify your child’s teacher immediately.



Please call the school’s Health Office if you have any questions or concerns.

**Greene Central School**  
**Phone: 607-656-4161**  
**Primary School ext. 6803**  
**Intermediate School ext. 5803**  
**Middle/High School ext. 2809**



## Interact News

The high school Interact Club is bringing back the Positive People Award! Staff were asked to nominate students who make a positive impact on our school. Two of those students were randomly selected to win a gift card. Our first round of winners are *Owen* and *Seth*. *Owen* was nominated for always having a smile on his face. *Seth* was nominated for taking the time to stop and help a peer. We appreciate your kind gestures!

—Mrs. Fish

# BRAVO!

## Winter Clothing/ Recess

Parents, please remember to send students in grades Pk-5 with warm clothes and boots for wintertime recess. We try to go outside as much as possible.



## In Case of Bad Weather GCS Closing Policy

Adverse weather and/or road conditions may cause school closings or delays. Often, a two-hour delay for our buses will allow road crews enough time to sand or clear roads and provide a much safer transportation situation.

Parents should be advised that our bus drivers are instructed to not travel on any road that appears to be in hazardous conditions. Therefore, even when school is in session, isolated groups of students may not receive bus transportation. Parents are asked to please be extremely cautious when having students exposed to the cold or wind for lengthy periods of time. In the event of a breakdown or an emergency students must be dressed appropriately. Some examples include coats, boots, and gloves. Finally, please have students stand away from the road while waiting for the bus for their safety and the safety of those already on the bus.

In addition to our automated call system, announcements on closures or delays will be posted on our school's web page, our GCS App, WBNG, and the district's Facebook page. The GCS app is free to download, search for Greene Central School district in your app store. Please check these first, as some media outlets no longer accept closings and delays because most districts utilize their own call system and web page.

## In the Event of a Delay

- A. BOCES Occupational Education students—In the event of a two-hour delay in opening, morning BOCES students will not be sent to the area center. They will stay at the High School campus.
- B. Students attending any special class or parochial school will be transported to their respective schools, but with a two-hour delay in arrival time.

It is important to continue to watch and listen for updates!

## Early Dismissals

In the event of a forecast that indicates approaching weather that may cause hazardous driving conditions, we may have an early dismissal. In this event, notifications are made using:

- Automated calling system
- School app
- District website
- District Facebook page
- WBNG 12 News

We urge parents to alert caregivers of this possibility to ensure that younger children are not left at home unsupervised; someone must be present to receive young children. Parents of elementary children, please contact the school secretary or transportation department at your earliest convenience with babysitter information, so that students are loaded properly on their bus.

607-656-4161 x4802

—Transportation Department



**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
Greene, New York 13778

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**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL MISSION**

The purpose of the Greene CSD is to provide a world-class education in order to develop well-equipped, motivated and adaptable lifelong learners. Our graduates will be well-prepared whether they enter the workforce or college. Our graduates will have the interpersonal, literacy and problem-solving skills that will allow them to contribute to society and be successful community citizens.

**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL VISION**

The Greene CSD will be a model school in providing a flexible and nurturing environment that leverages innovation, collaboration and a variety of opportunities in all areas so as to support student growth and learning.



*High School Footlights presents*

**Mary Poppins**

Showtimes: March 28, 7 p.m, March 29, 7 p.m.,  
and March 30, 3 p.m.

Stay tuned to our website and social media pages  
for ticket information.

—GCS Footlights

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
NO SCHOOL**

**FEBRUARY**

**17: PRESIDENTS'  
DAY, OFFICES  
CLOSED**

**18-21: WINTER  
RECESS**

**MARCH**

**14: STAFF  
DEVELOPMENT  
DAY**

**APRIL**

**18: GOOD FRIDAY,  
OFFICES CLOSED**

**21-25: SPRING  
RECESS**

**MAY**

**26: MEMORIAL  
DAY, OFFICES  
CLOSED**

**JUNE**

**17: LAST DAY GRADES 7-12**

**18-25: REGENTS EXAMS**

**19: JUNETEENTH, OFFICES  
CLOSED**

**25: LAST DAY PK-6 (TENTATIVE)**

**28: GRADUATION**