



WINTER 2026

Building community connections

One of my greatest joys as Gouverneur CSD superintendent is connecting with our community to celebrate the incredible work happening in our classrooms. Creating meaningful connections is at the center of our vision of delivering the promise of a brighter future for our students and our community.

I hope this inaugural winter newsletter offers you a window into our schools and the stories that make our district unique. We have so much to be proud of in our schools and I hope you feel that same sense of Wildcat pride as you read through these updates.

To stay connected in real time, I encourage you to continue using ParentSquare, our unified "one-stop shop" for school-to-home communication. For even more highlights and district news, we encourage you to visit our website and follow us on Facebook.

Jackie Kelly
Superintendent
of Schools



Gouverneur

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



District expands SRO program to ensure districtwide safety

The Gouverneur Central School District remains committed to enhancing the safety and security of our students, staff and facilities. As a result of our ongoing commitment to safety and security, the district added a third school resource officer (SRO) to the team, achieving our goal of having a dedicated officer in every school building.

Officer Edward Jenack joined the district at the start of the 2025-26 school year and is stationed at Gouverneur Elementary School. Bringing several years of law enforcement experience to the role, Officer Jenack is eager to help grow the district's safety and security programming.

"My hope is everyone feels comfortable enough to speak with me, from the morning hello to any concern they may have,"
said Jenack.

He joins Officer Robert Klimowicz at the middle school and Officer Michael Tyler at the high school to complete the district's SRO team.

By having a permanent SRO presence in each building, the district provides a direct, on-site connection between law enforcement and the school community. The district's SROs are highly qualified and integral to fostering a positive learning environment by focusing on the safety and well-being of everyone on campus.

"Providing a safe and supportive environment where students can focus entirely on learning is our top priority," said Superintendent Jackie Kelly. "Our SROs are vital to this effort, working proactively to build positive relationships with our students."

Our three SROs are district employees who work in close partnership with the Gouverneur Police Department, the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Office, and the New York State Police. We are excited to continue this collaboration to keep our schools a safe place to learn and grow.



Upcoming dates & events

Feb. 16-20	Mid-Winter Break, No School
March 13	Teacher In-Service Day, No School
March 30	Teacher In-Service Day, Half-Day PM
April 3-10	Spring Break, No School
May 19	School Budget Vote and Board of Education Election
May 25	Memorial Day, No School
June 19	Juneteenth, No School
June 26	Last Day of School



Grade 8 students attended Psychology Day at SUNY Potsdam in November. Coordinated by the Psychology Club, faculty and program alumni, the event introduced students to the psychology department and the many opportunities available at the college. Students attended a luncheon where current SUNY Potsdam students presented their research, followed by sessions on careers in psychology and a question and answer session with professionals and faculty members.

GOUVERNEUR VOLLEYBALL SERVES UP HOPE AT ANNUAL PINK & TEAL NIGHT

In October, the Gouverneur volleyball team proudly hosted its annual Pink & Teal Night, an event that blends athletics, community spirit and support for a meaningful cause. Players took the court in pink jerseys accented with teal to honor those affected by breast and ovarian cancer, while fans filled the stands in a sea of pink.

Community members showed their support by donating money and writing the names of loved ones on pink ribbons and volleyballs, which were displayed throughout the match. The evening also featured a lively basket raffle, with items generously donated by those in the community, adding excitement and boosting contributions.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of supporters, the event raised \$950 for the Gouverneur Women's Breast and Ovarian Cancer Foundation, helping fund local cancer awareness and assistance efforts. While just shy of the \$1,000 goal, the night was a resounding success filled with purpose, unity and heartfelt support.



BUILDING CHARACTER AND CONNECTIONS THROUGH THE POSITIVITY PROJECT

Gouverneur Central School District continues to engage in ongoing efforts in partnership with the Positivity Project (P2) to empower students to build character, take ownership of their actions and strengthen relationships. The goal of P2 is to create a positive and connected school culture.

In November, Gouverneur Middle School held its first P2 assembly, recognizing students who exemplify important character strengths such as "the other people mindset," integrity, creativity and bravery.

By celebrating these traits, our students create and reinforce a positive school culture and encourage each other to lead with kindness, empathy and purpose.





GOUVERNEUR STUDENTS SHINE AT STATE MUSIC COMPETITION

Fifteen talented Gouverneur High School students were selected to perform in this year's Area All-State Ensembles, a prestigious honor recognizing the top musicians from across the Tri-County region.

Each student earned their spot through outstanding performances at last spring's New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Solo Festival, where they prepared and presented a solo piece, memorized scales and completed a sight-reading exercise before a judge. Selection for Area All-State is based on these rigorous evaluations, making this achievement a testament to their hard work and dedication.

The experience culminated in a concert performance on November 15, at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam.



IMAGINATION TAKES FLIGHT AT BALLOONS OVER BROADWAY ASSEMBLY

Gouverneur Elementary School students recently brought a beloved holiday tradition into the classroom through a special unit centered on the book "Balloons Over Broadway" by Melissa Sweet. The nonfiction story follows the life of Tony Sarg, the puppeteer and artist whose imagination and perseverance led to the creation of the giant balloons seen in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. After diving into the text, students took on the role of designers, researching the history of the parade and the mechanics of how these massive characters are built.

The project allowed students to sharpen their ELA skills by practicing nonfiction reading and research while building new vocabulary. The lesson also served as an introduction to the world of engineering and art, as students had to problem-solve and plan how to turn their own creative ideas into physical balloon characters.

Students then presented their creations in a schoolwide parade, proudly displaying their handmade balloons for everyone. Beyond the fun of the celebration, the lesson taught students that imagination and hard work can lead to lasting traditions. By seeing how one person's big idea changed the world, students were encouraged to think creatively and understand that their own perseverance can have a real-world impact.



2026-27 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PREVIEW

The Gouverneur Central School District has started the development process for the 2026-27 operating budget. District leadership has engaged in conversations with department heads, faculty and staff and the Board of Education.

Our budgetary decisions will once again align with our mission statement to educate all individuals, in a safe environment, to be passionate learners and responsible citizens in a global society.

The proposed budget will support the following long-term goals of the district:

- Bringing consistency to curriculum decisions across grade levels and providing appropriate professional development to support curriculum.
- Providing social-emotional support and academic opportunities to ensure all students are engaged and successful.
- Ensuring a continuum of special education services district-wide to support all students.

We encourage everyone to check our website for more information on the proposed budget before the vote on Tuesday, May 19.





Gouverneur

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Voting Reminder

Mark your calendars!

The annual school budget vote and school Board of Education election will take place on **Tuesday, May 19.**

Voting will take place from 12-8 p.m. in the Gouverneur High School Auditorium.



We are hiring!

Join our team of supportive and committed professionals! The Gouverneur Central School District has a variety of positions currently available.

To learn more about available positions, scan the QR code or visit: <https://www.gcsk12.org/about-us/employment/>.



Alternative Education students spent the holiday season creating crafts using a variety of computer programs, machines and tools.



Gouverneur Elementary School's annual "Turkey Chase" brought the school to life as students dodged staff "cooks" in a high-energy game of flag football to protect their feathers.



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