

THE *Gator* COMMUNICATOR

Spring 2025
Vol. 30 • Issue 3

ALCS REPRESENTS AT UNIFIED BASKETBALL, TORCH RUN



The Gator presence was strong at the Special Olympics Unified Basketball Tournament at St. Bonaventure University in April.

To kick off the tournament, ALCS students and staff joined the Trooper Ross M. Riley Memorial Torch Run that kicked off the annual basketball tournament. Runners carried the Flame of Hope for the 3-plus-mile

run from Olean's City Building to SBU's Reilly Center for the opening ceremonies of the competition. Then, our athletes spent the day in friendly competition with unified basketball players from area schools.

Special Olympics is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences. Unified Sports joins



people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.

A reading celebration!

To celebrate Read Across America Week in early March, members of the high school's National Honor Society visited the Elementary School to read to classes and have fun with our young Gators. The annual tradition is held the first week of March, which is the week of Dr. Seuss's birthday.



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS' FUTURE: PROPOSED 2025-26 BUDGET INCLUDES 1.96% TAX INCREASE



Dear Members of the Allegany-Limestone Community,

The proposed 2025-26 school budget reflects our continued commitment to providing high-quality education, maintaining safe and modern facilities, and supporting student success across all grade levels. To achieve these goals, we are proposing a 1.96% increase in the local tax levy.

This modest increase will help preserve and enhance a wide range of academic and extracurricular programs that define our district's excellence. From early literacy initiatives and STEM enrichment to college and career readiness programs, we remain focused on equipping our students with the tools they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

While we are grateful for the support we receive from the state, increases in state aid have remained limited and are not sufficient to keep pace with rising costs. As a result, local funding remains a critical source of support for our schools.

We believe this budget strikes a responsible balance—investing in the future of our students while remaining mindful of the impact on taxpayers. We encourage all residents to review the full budget proposal and participate in the upcoming budget vote.

Thank you for your continued support!

*Tony Giannicchi
Superintendent of Schools*

The annual \$100k Capital Outlay Project can be included by school districts as part of the annual budget process. This process benefits the taxpayers, as it allows for annual maintenance that needs to be addressed, and utilizes the cycle of “funds-out” in one year and “funds-in” the following year (via State Aid) to essentially pay for the majority of the next year's project, as long as this cycle is maintained.

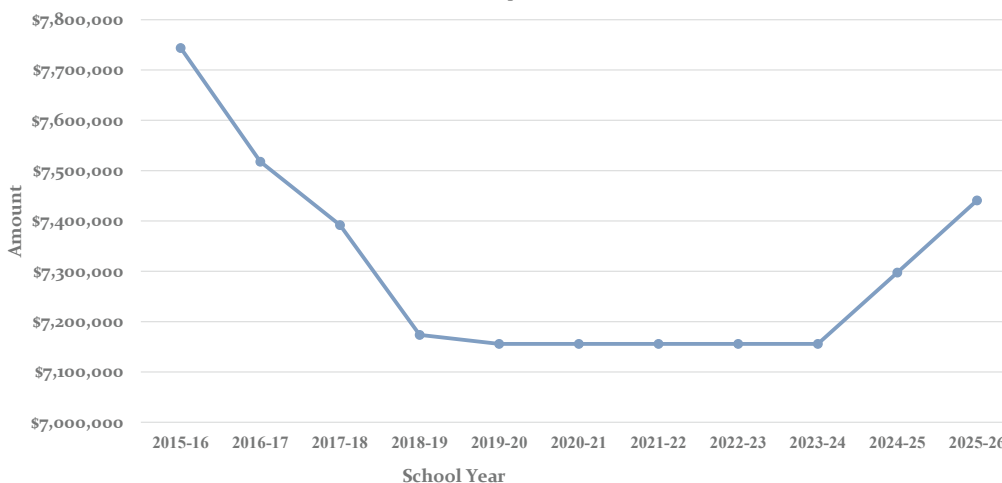
The 2025-2026 Capital Outlay Project is comprised of kitchen upgrades to include a critically-needed replacement of the walk-in cooler at the elementary for food storage, in conjunction with electrical and mechanical, as well as flooring and doors.



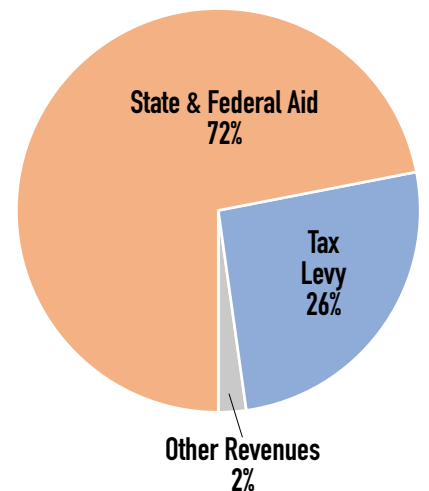
2025-2026 Proposed Budget

Estimated Receipts	2024-2025	2025-2026	%
Estimated Real Property Tax (Including STAR)	7,297,481	7,440,850	1.96%
Other Tax Items	104,200	114,692	
Other Local Sources	104,500	118,100	
State and Federal Aid	20,936,786	20,969,895	
Appropriated Surplus	519,004	431,070	
Total Receipts	28,961,971	29,074,607	0.39%

Tax Levy



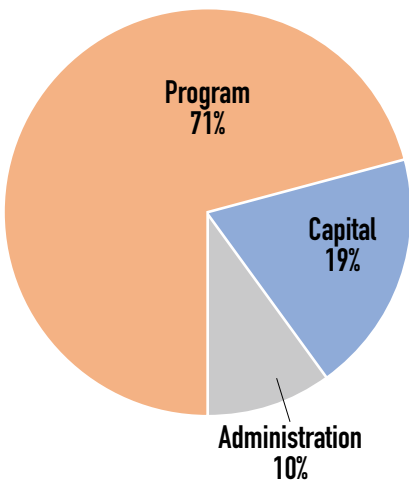
Estimated Revenues



2025-2026 Proposed Budget

	2024-2025	2025-2026	
Program Budget			
A1300 Finance	48,500	35,000	
A1600 Operation & Maintenance and Technology	425,000	575,000	
A2000 Curriculum Development & Inservice Training	200,360	177,360	
A2110 Instruction - Regular School	6,843,300	6,800,850	
A2200 Special Programs	4,286,987	4,314,735	
A2300 Summer Education Programs	23,000	62,201	
A2600 Instructional Media & Technology	1,317,600	1,143,100	
A2800 Guidance, Health, Psychologist & Extra Curricular	1,353,100	1,418,615	
A5500 Pupil Transportation	1,364,850	1,287,250	
A9000 Employee Benefits	4,551,745	4,544,090	
A9900 Interfund Transfers (Special Aid and Cafeteria)	135,000	135,000	
Total	20,549,442	20,493,201	
Capital Budget			
A1600 Operation and Maintenance	1,746,600	1,970,300	
A1900 Refund of Real Prop. Tax, BOCES Capital Exp.	247,624	236,199	
A5500 Pupil Transportation (Bus Purchase)	508,500	672,306	
A9000 Employee Benefits	450,620	482,605	
A9700 Transfer to Debt Service	2,544,839	2,195,450	
A9900 Transfer to Capital Fund (Capital Outlay Project)	100,000	100,000	
Total	5,598,183	5,656,860	
Administrative Budget			
A1000 Board of Education & District Meeting	22,288	23,435	
A1200 Central Administration	256,450	264,979	
A1300 Finance	342,725	369,275	
A1400 Legal, Personnel & Public Information	535,000	529,000	
A1900 Liability & Student Insurance, BOCES Adm., Dues	275,668	271,407	
A2000 Curriculum Development & Supervision	715,950	767,250	
A2200 Special Programs	109,700	115,000	
A9000 Employee Benefits	556,565	584,200	
Total	2,814,346	2,924,546	
Grand Total	28,961,971	29,074,607	0.39%

Estimated Expenditures



PROPOSED 2025-2026 SCHOOL BUDGET

The District Vote takes place on May 20, 2025.

PROPOSITION NUMBER 1

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Allegany-Limestone Central School District, Cattaraugus, New York, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, as presented by the Board of Education, is hereby approved and adopted and the required funds therefore are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be collected by a tax on the taxable property in said District to be levied as required by law.

Voter Eligibility and Voting Location

- Registered voters over the age of 18 who have been residents of the district for at least 30 days are eligible to vote
- District Residents vote in the Allegany-Limestone Middle-High School Gym

If you have additional questions you are encouraged to contact:

*Mr. Tony Giannicchi, Superintendent – tgiannicchi@alcsny.org or
Mrs. Daniele Vecchio, School Business Administrator – dvecchio@alcsny.org*

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MEET OUR SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES



Martha "Monti" Crowley received her associates in Science Degree from SUNY Alfred. Monti is a retired Registered Nurse. Along with being a retired RN, Monti was an educator

at Olean Business Institute and Jamestown Community College, so she values and understands the importance of education. She had the benefit of being educated overseas and all four of her children have attended excellent schools all over the country. Monti is a member of the Zonta Club and has several years of volunteering at schools and health fairs. Monti can say without a doubt that Allegany-Limestone School District is one of, if not, the best schools they have ever been a part of. By joining the school board, she hopes to continue and assure this excellence for each child in the district.



Karen Loucks is currently serving on the ALCS Board of Education due to a resignation and is excited to continue her service to the school district. Karen received her bachelor's

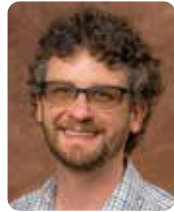
degree from SUNY College at Cortland in history/education, and her master's from St. Bonaventure University. She taught Global History, 9th/10th grades and psychology during her 35 years at Allegany Central and ALCS, retiring in 2016. Karen also began the Varsity Softball program and coached softball for 18 years, Varsity Girls Basketball for 20 years and Gymnastics for three years. Karen is a member of the Teacher's and Postal Federal Credit Union and is on its Board of Directors. "I believe in giving back to the School District and Community that has supported me for the 35 years that I was employed by the district. Teaching wasn't a job or even a career for me, it was a calling, a way of life for me. Students should always be first in all our

The Board of Education Election:

The two candidates with the highest and second highest vote totals will serve five-year terms commencing on July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2030.

The candidate with the third highest vote total will serve a term commencing May 21, 2025 and ending June 30, 2029.

decisions, and I will be a strong advocate for the students and help them gain many opportunities to achieve their full potential."



Scott Simpson received his bachelor's degree from the SUNY College at Fredonia in Chemistry and his Ph.D. in chemistry from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Scott is a professor and department chair of chemistry, and director of the Honors Program at St. Bonaventure University. He is an American Chemical Society Affiliate and volunteers at ALCS and other school districts where he provides enrichment. Scott is a graduate of ALCS and he sees this as his opportunity to give back to the community that played a pivotal role in shaping his academic journey and career. As a chemistry professor and active researcher in chemistry and materials science, he understands the importance of a strong educational foundation for success at the college and university level. ALCS has provided him with that foundation, and he wants to ensure future graduates receive the same high-quality education.

Scott is deeply committed to science education, as demonstrated by his involvement in K-12 classrooms, research in chemical education, and publications in the Journal of Chemical Education. His dedication has been recognized through national awards, including the National Science Foundation's CAREER Award and the Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award. These experiences have shown Scott how strategic funding and strong support systems can enhance student success, and he believes we can seek additional resources to strengthen education at ALCS.

Most importantly, he wants to be an active listener, especially to the ALCS teachers who work directly with our students every day. They know firsthand what is needed for

student success. He encourages anyone to reach out to him so he can serve as a voice for our educators, students, and families at board meetings.

Scott has a deep-rooted connection with this community. Born and raised in Allegany, he has many family members who have attended or currently attend ALCS, and his daughters, Scarlett and Lydia, will one day be students here as well. He is committed to ensuring that ALCS continues to provide the best possible education for our children, and he looks forward to working together to support and strengthen our schools.



Crystal Wilczewski received her bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford in Sports Management and her master's degree

in education (Sports Administration and Coaching) from Millersville University. Crystal is very active in the community and school. She was the previous president of the Allegany-Limestone Elementary PTO for four years and spent two years as secretary. She currently is a member of the Sports Boosters, Music Boosters and Academic Booster clubs. She is a Parish Council member at St. Bonaventure Church and a Religious Education teacher. She also is an Education Pillar representative for Enchanted Mountain Catholic Community and a Enchanted Mountain Soccer Club Board member. Crystal loves Allegany-Limestone, the people, teachers, kids, and families that have become a huge part of her and her family's lives. Her three children attend ALCS and Crystal loves being a part of different groups that help make their experiences at school that much greater. The Board of Education has always interested her because of all the things they do for the greater good. Therefore, it is a group that she would be honored to be a part of.

We will hold a Meet the Candidates Night on May 6 at 5:00 pm in the MHS Theater

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: EARLY MAIL-IN BALLOTS FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION AND BUDGET VOTE

Dear District Residents,

As we approach the upcoming school board election and district budget vote, we want to ensure that all residents are well-informed about the options available to cast their votes. These elections are pivotal in shaping the future of our district's educational environment, as the school board not only sets the direction for our schools but also makes critical decisions regarding the budget that impacts our students, teachers, and the entire community.

Early Mail-in Ballots: A Convenient Voting Option

For those who may be unable to vote in person on election day, early mail-in ballots offer a convenient way to participate in the democratic process. By utilizing this option, you can cast your vote for both the school board election and the district budget proposal ahead of time, ensuring that your voice is heard.

Here are the key details about early mail-in ballots for the school board election and budget vote:

- 1. Eligibility:** All registered voters within the district are eligible to vote via mail-in ballots. If you are a registered voter, you may vote on both the school board election and the budget proposal using this method.
- 2. Requesting a Mail-in Ballot:** To receive a mail-in ballot, district residents must submit a request to the District Clerk. Requests can be made online, by phone, or by mail. Ensure that you submit your request well in advance to allow sufficient time for processing and delivery. The deadline is May 14, 2025.

3. Deadline for Requests: The deadline to request an early mail-in ballot is May 13, 2025. Please make sure to submit your request before this date to ensure your ballot is received on time.

4. Returning Your Ballot: Completed mail-in ballots must be received by May 20, 2025, 5 p.m. You can return your ballot by mail or, if available, drop it off at the District Clerks office, located at 3131 Five Mile Road, Allegany, NY. Please review the provided instructions carefully to ensure that your ballot is returned in accordance with all guidelines.

5. Privacy and Security: Your vote remains private and secure throughout the voting process. All ballots are handled with the utmost care to ensure they are counted accurately. Follow the instructions included with your mail-in ballot to guarantee that it is processed without delay.

Why Vote on the School Board Election and Budget?

The school board election is an opportunity for you to choose the leaders who will guide our district's educational policies. Board members play an essential role in decision-making that impacts everything from curriculum development to teacher retention. Your vote will help determine the future direction of our schools and ensure that our students continue to receive the quality education they deserve.

Additionally, the district budget vote is just as crucial. The budget directly impacts school

programs, staffing levels, facilities, and educational resources. By voting on the budget, you have a direct say in how taxpayer dollars are allocated and how our schools are funded.

Both elections are critical to the health and success of our district, and your participation is key.

Get Involved and Make Your Voice Heard

We encourage all residents to take advantage of the early mail-in ballot option if they are unable to vote in person on election day. By voting early, you help ensure that your voice is counted, whether you are supporting the candidates for the school board or voting on the district budget.

For more information on the school board election, the budget proposal, or how to request a mail-in ballot, please visit www.alcsny.org or contact the District Clerk Kristin Colburn at kcolburn@alcsny.org; 716-375-6600, extension 2006.

Thank you for your commitment to our community and for exercising your right to vote.

Sincerely,

Kristin Colburn

District Clerk

Allegany-Limestone School District



Happy Retirement to the following staff members - we wish them a wonderful adventure ahead. You will be missed!



Dot Shulman
Teacher Aide, 24 years of service.



Sarah Flanders
Special Education Teacher, 16 years of service.



Tamara Hollowell
High School Math Teacher, 18 years of service.



Rosemarie Grainer
Elementary Library Teacher, 13 years of service.

Gator ingenuity takes flight

Seventh grader Dayton Bish is getting ready for spring by making these blue bird houses in Mrs. Dibble's class. He followed directions, measured and used various tools to construct these little homes. Nice job, Dayton!



6th Grader Wins Essay Contest

Sixth grader, Lilly Mascioni's 1st place essay on democracy went on for district judging. She was awarded 3rd place for District 19, which includes VFW Auxiliaries of Clarion, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Venango, and Warren counties in Pennsylvania.



Lilly is pictured with the Commander of VFW Post 212, Don Langley, a Vietnam Vet, at the awards dinner held in Bradford.



NHS INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS IN JANUARY

Congratulations to the newest members of the Allegany-Limestone Chapter of the National Honor Society. Current members inducted 20 students into the NHS in January. The inductees were:

Carley Barrey, Sierra Bish, Christina Booker, George Brairton, Isaac Brauer, Julia DeRose, Mariah Evans, Serena Frederick, Makenzie Goldsmith, Landon Hayes, Madison Honeck,

Madison Kahm, Amelia McCarthy, Loren Moshier, Sienna Nagel, Gian Parry, Madelyn Price-Costa, Mackenzie Rhodes, Ashley Shay, and Alexis Wojewoda-Ko.

ALCS Students Work with Print Shop on Clothing Closet

Provided by CABOCES

At the end of January, a vision started to come to life at the Allegany-Limestone Middle/High School!

In Room 281, lies a special Clothing Closet that is operated by students Hunter and Rebecca. This area provides students everything they would find at a clothing store, and available due to donations from the community. The goal was to make this space look friendly and inviting for students in need.

Hunter and Rebecca, along with the help of their teacher Ms. Schuman, had their idea, and brought to Kim Survil, Graphic Design Coordinator at the CABOCES Print Shop. The project was in full force with the objective to show Hunter and Rebecca how a large format project happens from start to finish.

They watched the measurements being done by teammate Andy Moot, Digital Printing Technician. He explained why it's important to have correct dimensions when creating a large-scale project. Andy said, "Starting with this step helped get the students excited for the next things to come for this experience."

Once design proofs were ready, Kim shared them with Hunter, Rebecca and Ms. Schuman for feedback. After some additional corrections to make it perfect, it was sent to print! Kim said, "Working on this project with Hunter and Rebecca has been so fulfilling! I was able to bring their vision of the space to life with the help of our Print Shop team. To step into a roll of an educator for this project has been one of the best highlights of my career!"



It was time for a CABOCES Print Shop tour! The students and a few Allegany-Limestone Teachers arrived at the Technology Innovation & Solutions Center to see their project start printing. They were able to move around objects in the design file and meet the Graphic Design team.

Jen Rickert, Graphic Artist on the Print Shop floor, was ready to show all the machinery for their project. Jen explained how the machines worked, the importance of color to match the school branding and started printing the designs for Hunter and Rebecca to see at full scale. Jen said, "I always enjoy showing students how things work in the Print Shop. It is especially rewarding to see them get excited by the scale of the machines and processes involved in creating the final products."

At the end of March, installation of the Clothing Closet was scheduled. Hunter and Rebecca were in amazement at how large the graphics were when they were being setup. They even were able to help with the installation of the lettering with some guidance from Andy. Andy noted, "Both students did a great job applying the lettering and caught onto the process very quickly! They were both proud of the accomplishment!"

Once the installation was complete, Room 281 had been transformed. Filled with school spirit, love and hard work from Hunter and Rebecca!

Thank you to Allegany-Limestone Middle-High School for inviting the CA BOCES Print Shop Team into your district to provide education and experience for your students. It will always be remembered and cherished!



Welcome to the Gator Family

Emily Merrill, born and raised in Fredonia, is the new band director at the Middle-High School. She is an alumnus of Forestville Central High School and the SUNY College at Fredonia. Her

passion lies in creating a safe and supportive environment for students, teaching with purpose and fostering a love for learning. Through music, she hopes to inspire lifelong learners and create meaningful

memories that will resonate for years to come. "I am excited to begin my journey with my students and everyone else at Allegany-Limestone, that makes this such a special place. Go Gators!"

ALCS Musicians Chosen for All-County Concerts

Congratulations to the students representing ALCS at the CCMTA All-County performances on March 7-8 and March 21-22, both at Salamanca Central School. A special shout out to our high school choral director and district wide music teacher Miss Scalise who was chosen to conduct the elementary chorus!

All-County Festival #1



Elementary Chorus: Amelia Bell, Isabella Lanza, Madelyn Monroe, Sadie Smith, Callie VanEtten, Audrey Baxter, Anton Dreher, Sarah Keech, Ava Krepp and Lilly Mascioni



Jr. High Band: Orielle Jennings, Jonah Flick, Kali Holtz, Maliya Wojewoda-Ko, Kexlee Griesbaum, Jillian Riley, Kai Warner and Mia Zinz



Sr. High Chorus: Christina Booker, Sofia Gomez, Caelyn Parry, Lilly Shumway, Quincy Stebbins, Mason Herbert, and Stephen Wiltse.

All-County Festival #2



Elementary Band: Luke Legere, Lilly Mascioni, Sadie Smith, Gunner Dayton, Max Bokman, Lillianna Stover, Mercey Stout Peters, Frankie Hastings, Carter Keesler, Nathan Kriner, Eli John and Luke Grimes



Jr. High Chorus: Maeve Finch, Ali Giardini, Hailey Kriner, Autumn Rae Odom, Logan Lingaton, Jackson Abbott, Kexlee Griesbaum, Juniper Wedlock, Jillian Riley and Mialyn Hite.



Sr. High Band: Maddax King, Sushanth Kondur, Stephen Wiltse, Mason Herbert, Isaac Holliday, Anaya Mickens, Caelyn Parry, Quincy Stebbins, Kai Warner, Rhyland Wilder and Jhonas Price.



NJHS SERVICE PROJECT WAS EGGCELENT!

Our National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) hosted a huge egg hunt on the Elementary School playground for our four classes of first graders before spring break. This was their annual service project.

Our young Gators swarmed the playground to find over 1,400 filled eggs - 750 filled and donated by NJHS members and 700 filled and donated by first-grade families – including four golden eggs that they turned in for a special prize.

Thank you to NHJS for leading such a fun activity and to everyone who donated to make the day a success!



InvestiGators Visit Museum of Glass

The 4th grade InvestiGators recently visited the Corning Museum of Glass. The trip, led by head teacher Mrs. Giardini and coordinator Mrs. Stover, involved learning about the properties of glass and included a live glassblowing demonstration.

These 12 students also visited the Seneca Iroquois National Museum, the Allegany Public Library, and the Allegany Historical Society in the Fall. They will join the fifth-grade group on trips to the Buffalo Science Museum and Letchworth State Park later this spring, as they continue to explore our community and state landmarks.



Gators Experience the Wonders of Europe

Over Thanksgiving break, our Gators went on a 12-day, whirlwind European trip that allowed them to experience the language, culture, and history of Spain, France, and Italy. Along with their six chaperones, 37 Allegany-Limestone students in grades 9-12, left Buffalo with new passports in hand, more questions than answers, and hopes for bringing textbooks and classrooms to life. Many who have never been away from home for more than a few nights nor traveled on a plane had signed up to travel across the ocean to countries they have only seen through pictures and videos. At the Buffalo Airport we met up with a group of eight from our neighboring district, Ellicottville.

These students were people our Gators may have competed against on the fields and courts, but after 12 days would be friends that were a big part of core memories that were created.

Tired and nervous, we landed in Amsterdam and waited for our flight to Madrid, Spain. Once we arrived at our first actual destination, the excitement and reality canceled out the apprehension and caution. Two quick days in Madrid and Toledo gave us a taste of a large city and an ancient walled city safely on top of a hill learning about art and history. Language barriers became less of a concern and more of a celebration when they went well. Not to get too comfortable, the rapid train to Barcelona took us a few hours northeast of Spain to



a new city with its own language and story to spend two more days learning about architecture and tourism and the blending of cultures and languages. Some students experienced a Barcelona vs Palmas fútbol match in the Olympic Stadium while others experienced Las Ramblas, the pathway from the center of Barcelona to the Mediterranean Sea.

Just as we settled into Barcelona, two days later, it was time to board a flight to Nice, France. The halfway point of our trip was met with a 2-day quiet visit to the Cote d' Azure, named for the brilliant blue waters and rocky beaches of the coastline. We lived like locals visiting the Christmas market, the local parks, bike rides, and quiet restaurants not very busy due to the off season. A picnic on the beach with our new and old friends, making plans to come back some day. The quiet visit quickly came to an end after two days, as we boarded the bus for the last legs of our trip, Italy. The country where neither the Spanish nor French students would be able to take

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the lead. The country that many were most excited about, but cautiously optimistic about using the language-barrier skills we had picked up over the past six days.

Italy showed us the iconic Leaning Tower of Pisa. The brilliant white buildings next to the greenest grass and bluest sky. A quick stop for the traditional pictures of holding up the tower. Then we arrived to Florence, Italy to soak in the art, the history, and the food. The best food. Suddenly everyone forgot that no one spoke Italian, and the uncertainty once again disappeared. Two quick days in Florence, and then off to Rome, the pinnacle of the trip, only after an excursion to Assisi. We learned about the connection to this area of Italy that is particularly near and dear to our hearts as we have such a strong connection to St. Bonaventure University. Some

religious education and art history were on the agenda in this beautiful area of Italy. Exhausted from the bus travel, we woke up to the massive Colosseum lit up in the evening lights as we arrived at our hotel only one block away. This was the image so many had been waiting for. The sudden burst of energy to finish the trip on a high note became just what we needed. Rome was not built in a day, but it was explored by this group in a day. We fit in the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Vatican, and the Pantheon. We were able to get just enough of a visit to Rome that we felt comfortable enough to know that we can and need to come back another day.



If this sounds appealing to the students of Allegany-Limestone, know that we travel every two years around Thanksgiving break. Our next trip – November 2026 – is in the planning and approving stage, and we are hoping to announce the next itinerary which will have Paris (France), Madrid and Sevilla (Spain), and Lisbon (Portugal). Start saving now, the trip will hopefully be launched for signups before June.



The ALCS Drama Club Production Draws Big Crowds

ALCS's Drama Club production of "Once Upon a Mattress," a musical comedy that has played on Broadway and the West End of London, drew great crowds at the MHS theater in February. Bravo to everyone involved!

Cast: Quincy Stebbins, Stephen Wiltse, Stephanie Kopec, Ronin Haseley, Sofia Gomez, Mason Herbert, Jillian Riley, Abby Crawford, Chloe Baker, Lilly Shumway, Christina Booker, Kexlee Griesbaum, Danny Parsons, Ben Wilcox, Aiden Grimes, Ava Filjones, Josie Hastings, Aralyn Jennings, Lillian Kave, Claire Kinne, Asher Ledford, Ann Phetteplace, Ava Rzepka, Juniper Wedlock, and Noah Wilder.

Crew: Marianna Steiner, Paige Ellison, Mialyn Hite, Autumn Rae Odom, Izzy Rodgers, Aubrianna St. Clair, Gracelyn Stout Peters and Bethany Wilcox.



Pit musicians: Maddax King, Jhonas Price, Anaya Mickens, Miss Merrill, and Director Mrs. Stebbins.

Production crew: Co-Directors Miss Scalise (stage and vocal) and Mrs. Stebbins (pit); Choreography, Mrs. Tammy Hilmey; and Stage Manager, Mrs. Wilber.



Natural Helpers Grows Their Ranks

Natural Helpers is a high school peer helping program that focuses on the natural helping network teens form to support each other. Counselor Mrs. Bogart has been the Natural Helpers advisor since our first retreat training took place in 1993. This year 37 new students were trained to become Natural Helpers, bringing our current total to 89 students in grades 9-12. The training took place at Camp Allegany in March. Students were trained on the steps of the helping skill, the importance of taking good care of themselves as well as focusing on ways to break down labels to improve the school community. Students really



appreciated the chance to meet new people and get to know them better, even people you would have never thought to talk to, as well as a chance to make new friends.

In preparation for the training, students in grades 9-12 were surveyed in January asking what the top five concerns students believe are major issues for them and their friends as well as who they try get help from when they have a problem. The top concerns in this year's survey were gossip/rumors, achievement in

school, stress, friendships, and mental health. Fifty seven of the students stated they first go to another student when they have a problem. With so many students looking to their friends for help, the Natural Helper network provides a critical role in supporting our students to make healthy choices.

Thank you to Miss Cheladyn, Mrs. Jones, Mr. McClelland, and Dr. Wolfgang for helping to chaperone the training and to the officers and youth staff who did an outstanding job keeping all of us well fed.



Spanish Club Enjoys Hispanic Flamenco Ballet's Latin Iberian Show

Allegheny-Limestone Spanish Club has been providing cultural, educational experiences to language learners in grades 9-12 for the past 24 years.

This year student club representatives, led by advisor Mrs. Charles, chose to attend the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet's Latin Iberian Show. More than 35 students traveled to Buffalo State College's Performing Arts Center in November. The presentation encompassed a detailed history of Mexico, Spain, Brazil and Puerto Rico, expressively told through song and dance. Students viewed interpretive performances of Mexico's La Llorona, Escuela Bolera and Pasodoble from Spain, Brasil's Samba, and Puerto Rico's Latin urbano, just to name a few. From the articulate stories of the history of these countries, to the colorful dresses worn by the dancers, to the engaging special effects and light show, and the authentic songs, dances and traditions of the distinctive regions of the Spanish-speaking world, performers guided and delighted the young audience. This was a meaningful way for students to learn some of the history, art, politics, music and psychology of the cultures they are studying. This was an educational and multicultural experience that also had students dancing in their seats at the theatre.

To finish out the afternoon, students enjoyed lunch at the Olive Garden in Cheektowaga. Any student interested in joining Spanish club in grades 9-12 is welcome. Members look forward to the trip every year!



ELEMENTARY GATORS MAKE HAIRY, POKEY, PINCHY AND FEATHERED FRIENDS

Thank you, once again, to Farmer Mike from Sundance Farms for bringing his animal friends to the Elementary School. In March, he introduced us to Raisin the chinchilla. This year we've also met Roger the turkey, Ava the bearded dragon, Harry the tarantula, Skittles and Spike the hedgehogs, Donald and Daisy the ducks and even some chickens who lay green eggs. Thank you, Farmer Mike, for teaching us so much about your animal friends!



OM TEAM MOVING ON TO WORLD COMPETITION

Congratulations to our three Odyssey of the Mind teams for their creativity and teamwork shown at the New York State Finals competition in Syracuse in early April.

Also, a HUGE Gator high five to Mr. Barnes's middle school team for placing third and advancing to the World Competition in late May at Michigan State University. The members of the team are Kexlee Griesbaum, Aralyn Jennings, Autumn Odom, Eleanor

Ring, Brayden Blocho, Shelby Chamberlain, and Kallen Rose.

Odyssey of the Mind is also coached by Mrs. Owen and Mrs. Stebbins. Thank you all for a great season and best of luck to our team heading to Worlds!



Gator artists recognized at Quick Center for the Arts

Congratulations to our Gator artists in kindergarten through 12th grade who were chosen for the juried student art exhibitions at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at St. Bonaventure University. Their works, along with art from other students in our area, were displayed at the center beginning in early December. The high school show will close on May 11.



Elementary School: Leah Brickner, Madelyn Buchanan, Bruce DePew, Louis Kiffer, Quinn Peters, Edie Ferguson, Brynn Scholla, Connor Peterson, Kynlee Hopkins, Delilah Johnson, Abigail Stuve, Hyunses Oh, and Hyunseo Oh.

Middle School: Ryleigh Beecher, Marissa Blocho, Allie Buchanan, Henry Buzzard, Gracen Giardini, Aiden Grimes, Hailey Kriner, Eshnika Patra, Sterling Prince, Gracelyn Lutes-Thropp, and Mia Zinz.

High School: L Banks, Kymber Benjamin, Sophie Campbell, Cait Conroy, Danielle Dunkleman, Brittany Dunkin, Paige Ellison, Nicole Feneran, Avery Gonzalez, Xackera Grover, Josslyn Hammond, Josephine Hastings, Anna Hawkes, June Hilmey, Kennedy Honeck, Kaydence Jones, Kenna MacArthur, Abigail Middaugh, Gregory Peck, Bryn Oldham, Molly Olkosky, Carly Reed, Simon Rodgers, Bailey Schultz, Cameryn Slevinski, Monica Sorokes, Lakeyn Washington, Jasmyn Watson, and Madison Wolf.

SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION OPEN UNTIL MAY 30

Allegheny-Limestone students entering kindergarten to 6th grade for the 2025-26 school year are invited to join the Gator Summer Program, hosted in conjunction with the Olean YMCA and the Town of Allegheny Recreation Department. The program will run July 7 through Aug. 15.

Registration, payment and waiver forms are due by May 30. All forms can be picked up at the Elementary School office. The cost is \$125 per child, \$75 per additional child, \$200 maximum per family. **PLEASE NOTE:** The registration deadline is firm, and no registrations will be accepted without payment.

The program includes a free breakfast and lunch at Allegheny-Limestone Elementary School. Morning activities will be held at the Elementary School. After lunch, staff will supervise students on their short walk to the Rec. Center at the Old High School.

For more information, please call the Elementary Office at (716) 375-6600.

Kickball Champs

Our Middle School Physical Education classes participated in a Round Robin Kickball Tournament earlier this year. A round robin tournament has each team playing each other more than once. The tournament lasted three weeks and all games were played on the turf fields and were dependent on the weather.



Front Row - Jonah Flick, Brooke Morgan, Logan Potter

Back Row - Ben Alessi, Blake Marvin, Adam Jaquith, Katy John, Claire Chimbel



Front Row - Benny Gustason, Kallen Rose, Isabella Lanza

Back Row - Callie VanEttten, Peyton Swetland, Jace Thompson, Lorraine Stephans

ALLEGANY-LIMESTONE CENTRAL SCHOOL

3131 Five Mile Road, Allegany, NY 14706

www.ALCSny.org

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Tony Giannicchi, Superintendent

Joseph Steger, Middle-High School Principal

Kevin Straub, Assist. Middle-High School Principal/Director of Technology

Maren Bush, Elementary Principal

Alicia Bockmier, Director of Special Education

Paige Kinnaid, Director of Instruction and Curriculum

Daniele Vecchio, Business Administrator

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Winter Weekend



Winter Weekend was held on February 1.
The theme was "Rio Carnivale".

Winter Weekend Court

Front Row:

Sophomores: Ella Oldham & Ayden Harris

Freshman: Aliyah Conner & Jax Amore

Juniors: Sierra Bish & Benjamin Johnson

Back Row:

Senior Court:

Jhonas Price & Kymber Benjamin

Brady Straub & Ippi Patra

Danny Parsons & Quincy Stebbins