

The Comet's Tale



SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Introducing SCCS's newest graduates!



Graduation 2025



sandycreekcsd.org

The Comet's Tale

A letter from the Superintendent

Sandy Creek Community,

As the school year comes to a close at Sandy Creek, we extend our congratulations to the class of 2025! Each graduating class brings its own spirit and personality, and this group is no exception.

While their presence will be missed, we're excited to celebrate this significant milestone as they leave high school and take their next steps. Whether in academics, the arts, athletics, or career and technical education, our seniors have demonstrated talent, commitment, and determination. We are proud of their journey and look forward to all they will accomplish in the future.

Graduation is not only a reflection of student success but also the result of support from families, educational staff, and the broader community. Behind every graduate is a team of people who have offered guidance, encouragement, and care along the way. We are grateful to everyone who has supported the class of 2025.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year meaningful. We wish you a safe, relaxing summer and look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Sincerely,

Kevin Seymour
Superintendent of Schools

Happy Retirement!

Thomas Artini – Music Teacher

Amy McCormack –
Director of Curriculum,
Instruction and Data

Denise Conzone – Support Monitor

Peggy McConnell – Bus Driver

SCCS honors alumnus Kent Taber as 2025 Wall of Distinction inductee

Sandy Creek Central School District proudly announces Kent Taber, class of 1966, as the 2025 inductee to the SCCS Wall of Distinction. The prestigious recognition honors graduates who have demonstrated a high level of professionalism, distinction and moral character, serving as exemplary role models to current and future students.



Throughout his life, Taber has embodied these values through a lifetime of service and dedication to others. A Vietnam War veteran, Taber served in the U.S. Army as a communication specialist. Upon returning to Sandy Creek in 1972, he began a long career with the district as a custodian, bus mechanic and eventually head mechanic. He held this position until his retirement in 2002, always prioritizing the safety of both students and staff.

After retirement, Taber volunteered with the Angels on Earth project, supporting Oswego County residents in need. Since 2013, he has also served as a driver and volunteer for PEACE Inc., assisting low-income families across Onondaga and Oswego counties. In addition, he has been an active volunteer at the Mad River Club, contributing to programs such as hunter safety and DEC education.

He was nominated for this honor by Linda Taber, Eric Taber, James Ridgeway and Rollin Mincher. The official induction ceremony was held June 27 in the District Office Board Room, and was well-attended by family, friends, and members of the SCCS community. Speakers included Superintendent Kevin Seymour, Linda Taber and Rollin Mincher.

During the ceremony, Mincher, who works alongside of Taber at PEACE Inc., shared why he felt compelled to nominate him. "This man helps many families by serving as a conduit in getting donations to those who need it most," he said. "He is a humanitarian who quietly works behind the scenes changing people's lives for the better."

★ The SCCS Wall of Distinction program was established to honor alumni who fit the following criteria: demonstrating a high level of professionalism and distinction and exemplifying moral character and acting as a positive role model.

★ Nominations are reviewed by an Advisory Committee made up of non-graduates of Sandy Creek. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit www.SandyCreekcsd.org or call 315-387-3445 ext. 1510.

Celebrating our younger graduates!

SCCS students in pre-k, kindergarten and fifth grade proudly walked across the stage during their moving-up ceremonies, celebrating the next exciting chapter in their academic journey!





A letter from the BOE President John Shelmidine:

Each year, June ranks as one of the proudest times on the calendar for any school board member. As members of the Sandy Creek community, we celebrate the successes of our graduates and of all our students moving up. In their years with us, they have shown dedication, perseverance, and focus and turned challenges into opportunities. They have excelled academically, as well as athletically.

Their success is a credit to the families who have instilled strong character in these young people. It has been a joy to share in the growth of your children. Your Board wishes to express sincere thanks for all that you have accomplished. It is a job well done and this is your celebration as well.

We also want to recognize all staff at Sandy Creek for the lessons taught, not only in the classroom or on athletic fields, but in life as well. They have built a solid academic base and, along with families, have enhanced the life lessons of students. We are excited to pass the torch of leadership to these graduates.

Sandy Creek is a special place. We take pride in all students and staff who pass through our doors. As we celebrate the many successes here, we thank those students, staff and our community for their support of our school. In return, we pledge to continue raising the bar and leading this district in the best way possible.

Thank you for your support, and congratulations!

Congratulations to our CiTi New Vision Graduates!

Abagail Balcom, Brayden Metott and Dayle Ridgeway spent the year enrolled at SUNY Oswego taking collegiate coursework while simultaneously gaining hands-on work experience shadowing at local businesses and industry.



The New Vision programs at CiTi are designed for high school seniors interested in pursuing careers in healthcare, law, public safety, government, engineering, veterinary science and more. The experience combines strong academics with real-life experiences at a variety of community rotation sites. In addition, the students receive 12 SUNY Oswego credits for four college courses, saving them around three grand in tuition.

Hands-on learning shines at Sandy Creek's STEAM Family Fun Night



Sandy Creek Elementary students and their families enjoyed a night of science, technology, art, engineering and math at the second annual STEAM Family Fun Night.

The elementary school hosted a variety of interactive exhibits and activities, including a fifth-grade science fair, math and movement challenges, coding stations, engineering and building projects, planting projects, an art show and more. A complimentary Little Caesar's pizza dinner and dessert were available in the cafeteria.

A major highlight of the night was a game designed by the award-winning SCCS Co.R.E. robotics team. Students lined up to participate, all while learning about future opportunities in STEM.

"It's incredible to see our community come together for an event like this," said Elementary Principal Tim Filiatrault. "We wouldn't have been able to offer this hands-on learning experience without the support of our dedicated volunteers and generous donors."

The event was planned by the Elementary Family Events Committee with contributions from the SCTA, the administration team, Elementary Student Council, Elementary Climate Committee, SC Parent Teacher Group, Little Caesars and Ryan Jones with Home Depot.



Summer Food Service Program

Throughout the summer, SCCS will be offering free summer meals to all children 18 years of age and younger.

Meals will be provided at the SCCS HS Cafeteria, times as follows:

July 8 – Aug. 9; Monday – Friday

Breakfast
8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. only

Lunch
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. only



SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Fax: 315-387-2196

District Office: Ext. 1510

Business Office: Ext. 1510

Elementary: Ext. 1110

Middle School/High School: Ext. 1910

Nurses' Office: Ext. 1501

Transportation: Ext. 3330

Kevin Seymour

Superintendent of Schools

Cora Harvey

Business Administrator

Board of Education:

John Shelmidine

President

Michele Warner

Vice-President

Kevin Halsey

Andrea Harris

Ryan Jones

John Macklen

Heidi Metott

Leia Wall

Ex Officio Student

Member of the Board

Timothy Filiatrault

Principal

Elementary School

Steven Newcombe

Principal

Middle/High School

Jessica Blair

Director of Curriculum,
Instruction & Data

James Hunt

Assistant Principal and Athletic Director

The Sandy Creek Central School District in accordance with the Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and does not discriminate on the basis of sex or handicap in the educational programs or activities it operates. This includes recruitment and employment of employees; pay and benefits; counseling services for students; access by students to educational programs, courses and activities. The District's Title IX Compliance Coordinator is Cora Harvey (124 Salisbury Street, Sandy Creek, NY 13145 | 315-387-3445).

Graduation 2025



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Sandy Creek Central School District receives national recognition for SEL Campaign

Sandy Creek Central School District has been honored with the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) Excellence Award for Marketing Materials for its "Be Good Comets" Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Campaign.

The campaign was recognized as part of NSPRA's Publication and Digital Media Awards, which highlight outstanding tactical communications including newsletters, print materials, videos, podcasts, websites and social media. Entries are judged based on excellence, creativity and impact.

This year's winners represent the best in school communication across the country, and Sandy Creek Elementary's campaign stood out among 120 entries for its design and effective approach to student recognition and school culture.



The SEL Committee launched the Be Good Comets initiative to recognize and encourage positive student behavior. To bring their vision to life, they partnered with the CiTi BOCES Public Relations team to develop a visually dynamic campaign designed to educate and inspire the students.

The CiTi team organized a photoshoot featuring volunteer students and the district mascot to capture everyday acts of kindness, such as opening doors or helping a friend in need. These images were transformed into colorful posters highlighting the core traits of being a "Good Comet," which now hang throughout the school. The team also created eye-catching social media graphics to showcase the weekly Comet call-out winners, celebrating students who go above and beyond.

School psychologist and SEL Committee member, Whitney Oak, explained how the school put the campaign into action. "Each week, staff members passed out tickets to students who demonstrated kindness, resilience and positive decision-making," she said. "On Fridays, five student names were drawn from a pool of 300- 400 recognition tickets, and those students received a prize, a certificate, and had their photos shared on the school's bulletin board and digital platforms."

Members of the SEL committee and CiTi PR team were recognized during a SCCS Board of Education meeting on July 10 for their outstanding role in creating this campaign, along with a second Award of Excellence for the district's quarterly newsletter.