

News about...

June/September 2012



Urban **US** Suburban

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Participating Districts:

Brighton
Brockport
Fairport
Penfield
Pittsford
Rochester
W. Irondequoit
Wheatland-Chili

Coordinated by



Message from the Program Director:

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program, coordinated by Monroe #1 BOCES. On behalf of the program staff, we are looking forward to the beginning of a new school year and all the wonderful opportunities it will bring to you, your child and their school.

Since its inception in 1965, parent and family involvement has been the cornerstone of the Urban-Suburban Program. When parents become active partners in their children's education, there are profound and comprehensive benefits for students, families and schools.

Educational research consistently shows that:

- When parents are involved, students achieve more regardless of socio-economic status or parents' educational level;
- When parents are involved in their child's education, those students have higher grades and test scores;
- Students whose parents are involved in their school lives have higher graduation rates and greater enrollment rates in post-secondary education;
- The most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which a student's family is able to:
 - (1) create a home environment that encourages learning;
 - (2) communicate high but reasonable expectations for their children's achievement in future careers, and
 - (3) become involved in their children's education and school.

Your child's school will provide a safe and stimulating environment, but always remember that your active participation is the glue that holds the student, family, school and Urban-Suburban partnership together. Always know that program staff will be available to support you in any way possible. Don't hesitate to contact us at 249-7045 with any questions, concerns or suggestions. Have an awesome year! I look forward to seeing you at the first program-wide Urban-Suburban parent meeting on Tuesday, September 25; 7:00PM; Wilson Foundation Academy; 200 Genesee Street, Rochester, New York.

Theresa J. Woodson



Welcome aboard... new Urban-Suburban Community Liaison



Please welcome our new Community Liaison, Jessica Lewis. Miss Lewis succeeded Ms. Marlene Allen who retired effective March 1, 2012, after serving in this capacity for the past fifteen years. Miss Lewis is an alumnus of the West Irondequoit Central School District via the Urban-Suburban Program. Following graduation, Miss Lewis attended SUNY College at Buffalo and obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Studies Education and a Master of Science Degree in Teaching and Curriculum with a specialization in Social Studies from the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester. Prior to joining the Urban-Suburban Program, Miss Lewis served as the Director of the Urban League of Rochester's Afterschool Academy. She oversaw the day-to-day operations of five after-school programs for students in grades 7-12. Under her leadership, students received tutoring and SAT preparation services, toured college campuses, participated in workshops focusing on character and social development and traveled to National Urban League Youth Conferences in Chicago, IL, Washington, DC, Boston, MA and most recently, New Orleans, LA.

Miss Lewis is excited about joining the Urban-Suburban Program and looks forward to working with participating families and school districts.

Back to School Tips

1. Review all of the information.

Review the material sent by the school as soon as it arrives. These packets include important information about your child's teacher, room numbers, school supply requirements, sign ups for after-school sports and activities, school calendar dates, health and emergency forms, and volunteer opportunities.

2. Mark your calendar.

Make a note of important dates, especially back-to-school nights. This is especially important if you have children in more than one school and need to juggle obligations. Arrange for a babysitter now, if necessary.

3. Buy school supplies early.

Try to get the supplies as early as possible and fill the backpacks a week or two before school starts. Older children can help do this, but make sure they use a checklist that you can review. Some teachers require specific supplies, so save receipts for items that you may need to return later.

4. Re-establish the bedtime and mealtime routines.

Plan to re-establish the bedtime and mealtime routines (especially breakfast) at least one week before school starts. Prepare your child for this change by talking with your child about the benefits of school routines in terms of not becoming over tired or overwhelmed by school work and activities. Include pre-bedtime reading and household chores if these were suspended during the summer.

5. Turn off the TV.

Encourage your child to play quiet games, do puzzles, flash cards, color, or read as early morning activities instead of watching television. This will help ease your child into the learning process and school routine. If possible, maintain this practice throughout the school year. Television is distracting for many children, and your child will arrive at school better prepared to learn each morning if he or she has engaged in less passive activities.

Save the Dates

Parent Group Meetings 2012-2013

Brighton

September 25
November 8
January 23
March 13

Fairport

September 25
October 30
January 8
March 13

Pittsford

September 25
December 12
January 23
March 13

Wheatland-Chili

September 25
November 15
January 17
March 13

Brockport

September 25
November 5
January 22
March 13

Penfield

September 25
November 13
January 22
March 13

West Irondequoit

September 25
October 18
January 17
March 13

*Note: Dates are subject to change pending extenuating circumstances.

Join the Urban-Suburban Science Bowl Team Students grades 6-12

A Science Bowl informational meeting will be held on **Saturday, September 15; 10:00AM**; Rush Rhees Library Gleason Library Area (University of Rochester).

Parking is available in the lot across from the library entrance on Library Road. At least one parent must accompany the student to this meeting. We require a strong commitment from both students and parents. See internet link maps for parking and library location for more detailed information or contact Coach Kelvin Knight at 713-5093 or kelvin.knight@rocketmail.com.



There are many benefits to joining our team!

- Building resumes for college and job opportunities;
- Alumni mentoring (career building, college prep, job skills);
- Student mentoring (socializing, academic prep, study skills);
- Study skill building;
- Traveling including local college tours, field trips;
- Building lifetime friendships;
- Multimedia and hands-on learning format;
- Middle school solar sprint car races in Buffalo, NY.

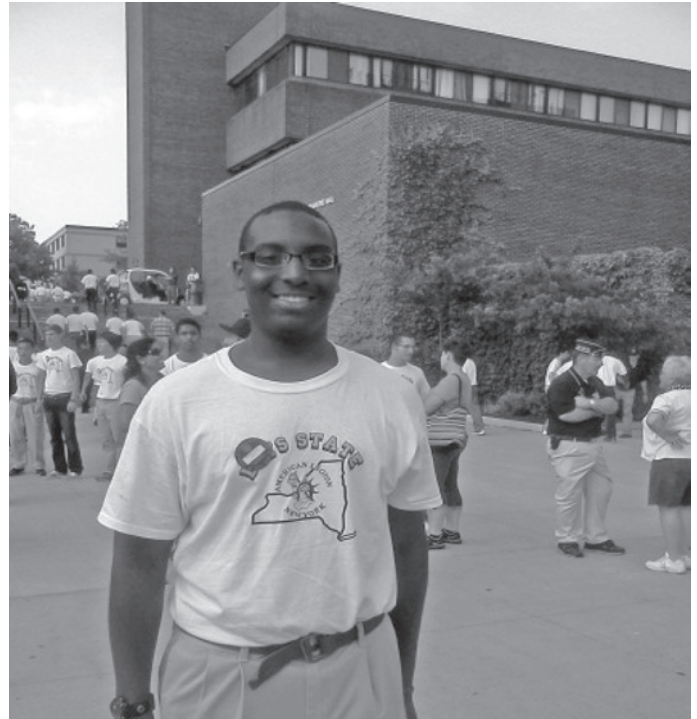
Please consider joining our team; you will not be disappointed. It is a great opportunity for incoming seniors and juniors to build their academic resumes. Middle school students will benefit from the experience and exposure to higher education and academic excellence. Participation can lead to academic scholarships. Parents are also welcome to join us! US Teams Web Page: www.aesrochester.4t.com/USAAvideo.html.



Faith Cook a 7th grader and **Micah Cook** an 8th grader played lacrosse for Calkins Road Middle School girls and boys modified lacrosse team this past spring. Congratulations to Faith and Micah for making the teams.

Faith and Micah began playing lacrosse in 3rd grade with ROCE6 under the leadership of Coaches Arkee Allen and Art Alvut.

Faith and Micah are the children of George and Tina Cook. Both have been in the Pittsford School District since 1st grade.



Matthew Cook, from Wheatland-Chili High School attended Boys' State, June 25-28, 2012. Matthew was recommended by his Principal Dr. Brimstein, and after an interview process was selected as one of the young men to participate in this prestigious training program.

Boys' State is a Leadership Program of the American Legion developed for males that are high school juniors from the concept that youth should be offered a better perspective of the practical operation of government; that the individual is an integral part and commensurately responsible for the character and success of his government. It is operated on the basis of the political government organization existing in New York State, including all levels from municipality to the state.

While at Boy's State, Matthew ran a campaign to be elected Attorney General of the State; however he lost by a very small margin. He did, however, hold positions of City Attorney, County Superintendent of Schools and County Clerk. If you would like more information on Boy's State go to www.americanlegionboystateny.com. Matthew is the son of George and Tina Cook. He has been in the Wheatland Chili School District since first grade and is entering his senior year in September 2012.

Circle of Friends Reading Club

for 6th-8th grade girls

In 2008, the Urban-Suburban Program created The Circle of Friends Reading Club. The mission of the reading club is to develop friendships among Urban-Suburban female students across district lines, while encouraging and fostering the love of reading that promotes and reinforces their self-worth.

All middle school girls (grades 6-8) that are interested in joining this club can complete the form below. Ideally, the program would like at least one young lady from each district (7) to participate. The club meets the third Sunday of each month from 4:00-5:30PM and rotates so that each family can serve as a host.

Our first meeting will be a meet and greet, Sunday, September 16; 4:00-5:30PM. Parental involvement is a must and will be further discussed at the initial meeting.

Circle of Friends Reading Club Form

STUDENT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ PARENT CELL _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ATTENDING DISTRICT _____ GRADE _____

PARENT(S) NAME _____

Please return this form before Wednesday, September 12 to:

Urban-Suburban Program
41 O'Connor Road
Fairport, New York 14450

Congratulations to the Urban-Suburban 2012 graduating class!

The 2012 graduating class will soon begin the next phase of a magnificent journey. Many will pursue a post secondary education, while others will go directly into the military or workforce.

Brighton



Kamille Cummings
Roberts Wesleyan
Major: Nursing



Chiamaka Ikpeze*
Howard University
Major: Nursing



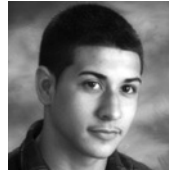
Kamillah Ramos*
University of Buffalo
Major: Architecture



Bradd Young
Hampton University
Major: Art & Music



Zachery Zerom
Monroe Community College
Major: Computer Programming



Alejandro Estrella
Monroe Community College
Major: Business Marketing



Shateela Hill
Nazareth College
Major: Occupational Therapy



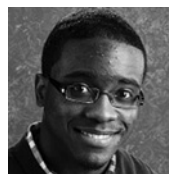
Katelyn Lugo
Nazareth College
Major: Social Work



Keyondra Myricks
Monroe Community College
Major: Liberal Arts



Antwan Price*
Garrett University
Major: Liberal Arts



Luther Robinson
Monroe Community College
Major: Music Performance



Ryan Wegner*
SUNY IT
Major: Computer Science

Brockport



Kadija Alligood
Clarkson University
Major: Business



Brianna Drummond
Roberts Wesleyan College
Major: Physical Therapy



Kaitlyn Durant
United States Navy
Major: Military Weapons



Haydee Espada*
SUNY Brockport
Major: Nursing

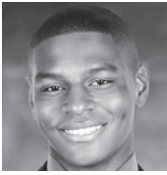
Fairport



Tiara Bertram*
University of Arizona
Major: Environmental Science



Philycia Hounshell*
Howard University
Major: Pre-Pharmacy



Lamonze Hunter*
Keuka College
Major: Business



April Johnson*
Monroe Community
Major: Secondary Education



Jayda Newsome*
Clark Atlanta University
Major: Biology

Penfield



Keturah Carter*
St. John University
Major: Journalism



Jessica Gonzalez
Arizona Western College
Major: Radiology Technology



Khadija Harris
University of Birmingham
Major: Psychology



Randy Jackson*
Monroe Community College
Major: Culinary Art

Pittsford Mendon



Vaughn Boler
SUNY Brockport
Major: Sports Management



Maya Nesmith
Mills College
Major: Art History



Imani Rice*
SUNY Cortland
Major: Pre-Medical



Shaquanda Stubbs
Finger Lakes Community College
Major: Nursing

Pittsford Sutherland



Ara Bogmis
Clarkson University
Major: Electrical Engineering



Sheldon Jackson
Monroe Community College
Major: Business & Marketing

West Irondequoit



Sumaiyyah Bradley
Monroe Community College
Major: Nursing



Thomas Freer
Cazenovia College
Major: Criminal Justice



Jade Osborne*
Alfred State College
Major: Nursing



Joshua Trammell
Monroe Community College
Major: Computer Science

Wheatland-Chili



Summer Smith*
University of Buffalo
Major: Biology

*Urban-Suburban Scholarship Recipients

Did You Know?

Brighton

Dr. Thomas Hall is selected as new BHS principal

Effective July 1, Dr. Thomas Hall was named Principal of Brighton High School. As a teacher, assistant principal and principal, Dr. Hall has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership and personal qualities.



He is well known to be highly intelligent, honest, fair and collaborative. Dr. Hall works closely with all staff members, students, parents, other administrators and the community to always do what is right and good for children. He is a deep thinker who communicates exceptionally well and prides himself on leading by including everyone in the decision-making process. Although his selection will certainly be a significant loss to the French Road school community, Dr. Hall's personal and professional gifts will be an incredible asset to the district in this new role. Dr. Hall's selection was made following an interview process that included four candidates from outside the district who were chosen

from a larger pool of qualified applicants.

Dr. Hall began his career in 1996 as a biology teacher at Brighton High School. He was also a coach and club advisor. He was well known as an excellent instructor and a thoughtful practitioner who developed meaningful and sincere connections with colleagues and students. He went on to become an assistant principal at Newark High School before returning to BHS as an assistant principal in 2002. Tom became the Interim Principal at French Road in 2007, eventually interviewing and being selected as the principal.

Dr. Hall received his bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Rochester, a master's degree in Educational Administration from SUNY Brockport and a doctoral degree in Administration, also from the University of Rochester.

The Brighton High School tradition of excellence and sincere desire to be the best for each individual child will be well served by Dr. Hall. Congratulations Dr. Hall and BHS!

Mr. Matthew Comeau, Principal of French Road Elementary School

Dr. Kevin C. McGowan, Superintendent has announced the selection of Mr. Matthew Comeau as the new principal of French Road Elementary School, effective September 4. Mr.



Comeau's selection was made following a thorough and rigorous interview process that resulted in the selection of six semifinalists who were chosen from a large pool of qualified applicants.

'Matt is a thoughtful, intelligent, caring and committed educator,' Dr. McGowan says, He has gained valuable experience in the area of elementary education in his current role as an assistant principal. Matt has learned a great deal about literacy at the elementary level while refining his leadership skills in all areas of curriculum, instruction and assessment. His references, which

included teachers, administrators and parents, often described Matt as a learner who thinks deeply about the work, but most importantly, cares deeply about the children, families and staff that he works with.'

Mr. Comeau is currently the Assistant Principal at Brooks Hill School in the Fairport Central School District. Prior to beginning his administrative career as an Assistant Principal, Matt served as a secondary math teacher in Fairport and as a principal for the Monroe 1 BOCES Summer School. Following his graduation from George Mason University with a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, Matt began his teaching career as a math teacher in Potomac, Maryland. Matt earned a B.A. in Mathematics at Yale University and completed his administrative graduate work at SUNY Brockport.

Matt and his family are Brighton residents. His daughter will be a first grader at Council Rock Primary School and his son will begin third grade at French Road Elementary School in September.

Brockport

In early July, the Brockport Central School District Board of Education announced that Dr. Lesli Myers was selected as Brockport's next superintendent. Dr. Myers succeeded Superintendent Garry Stone who retired this past June.



Myers comes to Brockport from the Ithaca City School District where she has served as the assistant superintendent of student services since 2007. Prior to her current position, Myers served in the Greece Central School District as director of student and career support and coordinator of student support and enrichment. She also worked as school counselor and house administrator for the Rochester City School District.

Myers holds a doctorate degree in executive leadership from St. John Fisher College and master's degrees from St. John Fisher (educational administration) and the University of Rochester (counseling and human development).

"This was a rigorous selection process and we had many highly qualified applicants," said Board President Thomas Langelotti. "The Board of Education is excited and invigorated with what Dr. Myers brings to our District and I want to thank everybody who provided feedback throughout this process."

Myers looks forward to moving her family to the Brockport Central School District and immersing herself into the community.

"I am so appreciative of the confidence shown in me to be Brockport's next superintendent," said Myers. "I am also excited to join such a collaborative community, which is known for being extremely supportive of the district and education. I look forward to partnering with all of Brockport's stakeholders from parents to staff to the board of education in continuing the district's tradition of excellence."

Myers began her role as Brockport superintendent in early July.

Mr. Robert Blake, Assistant Principal, A. D. Oliver Middle School – Mr. Blake comes to Brockport from the Hilton Central School District, where he has worked for 15 years, the past 8 years as a 7-12 English Program Coordinator and prior to that as a classroom teacher. He succeeds Mr. Patrick Scinolfi who retired August 31.



Fairport

The Fairport Central School District is pleased to announce the selection of Joseph Fantigrossi as principal of Fairport High School. He comes to Fairport from Pittsford Mendon High School with eight years of experience as an administrator and seven years as a social studies teacher. Pittsford colleagues noted his strength as an instructional and knowledgeable leader who led by collaboration among staff, parents and students. They pointed out that his focus is always on doing what is best for students and how to support faculty and staff.



Mr. Fantigrossi was selected from a pool of 51 candidates and a field of four outstanding finalists. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jon Hunter noted that he brings a depth of knowledge and a unique combination of skills in leadership, communication, and curriculum. Throughout the interview process, his vision and commitment were student focused. "His strength in engaging and involving students, parents, and faculty in quality input will serve our

Fairport High School and Fairport community well."

Mr. Fantigrossi earned his undergraduate degree in history at Iona College in New Rochelle and his master's degree in American History at Fordham University. He completed his administrative certification at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, New York. Currently, he is enrolled in the doctoral program for Leadership Education at the University of Rochester. "I am truly excited to become part of the Fairport family," said Mr. Fantigrossi upon being named principal. "I have appreciated all of the feedback I received from the students, teachers, parents, administrators, staff, and community members throughout the interview process. Now I look forward to collaborating with the entire school community in building upon the tremendous tradition that has been forged at Fairport High School."

He and his wife Nicole and two young boys, JB and Domenick, live in Penfield. Mr. Fantigrossi enjoys running and weight training and keeping up with his sons. He also enjoys attending the many activities involving students at the high school.

Did You Know?

Penfield

The Penfield Board of Education is pleased to announce that Dr. Stephen L. Grimm has been named the new Superintendent of Schools for the Penfield Central School District. Dr. Grimm comes to Penfield from the Lansing Central School District, where he has served as Superintendent since 2008. Prior to that, he served as Executive Director of Secondary Schools in the Greece School District and principal of Wheatland-Chili Junior-Senior High School. Dr. Grimm's previous experience also includes serving as an assistant principal in the Canandaigua School District and as a math and science teacher in the West Irondequoit and Geneseo school districts. He holds his doctorate from the University of Rochester, his administrative certification from SUNY Brockport, his master's degree from Nazareth College and his bachelor's degree from SUNY Buffalo. Dr. Grimm was raised in Rochester, attending schools in the Rush-Henrietta School District.



Dr. Grimm's appointment marks the culmination of an open search process, which included the involvement of a stakeholder committee comprised of administrators, faculty and staff, parents and community members. "We truly appreciate their input and their commitment to this process," Nasra said.

During his career, Dr. Grimm has developed and implemented initiatives across the educational spectrum, including curriculum and instruction, strategic planning, budget development, teacher evaluation, professional development and emergency and safety planning. He has a strong commitment to open communication and has actively involved his staff and community in the decision-making process, as well as been a very visible leader within his district.

"I am honored to have been selected to lead such an outstanding school system, and I look forward to learning more about the desires and aspirations of the Penfield students, faculty, staff and community," Dr. Grimm said. "Penfield's vision and history of excellence in so many different areas elicits in me a level of professional excitement about future possibilities in the district, and personal satisfaction in knowing we will be raising our family in a wonderful caring community."

"The Board is very pleased to appoint Dr. Grimm as our Superintendent. He embodies the ideals of learning, trust and collaborative decision making that both the Board and the community were looking for in the next Superintendent," said Board President Carole Nasra. "We look forward to introducing him to the community this fall."

Dr. Grimm replaces Superintendent John D. Carlevatti, who retired at the end of August after four years with the district.

Want to submit an article for the newsletter?

Deadline to submit information for the January newsletter is **Friday, November 16, 2012.**

To submit article information electronically, go to: www.monroe.edu/usform

Or email/mail article information. Please include:

- Name of Student(s)
- School and District
- Grade
- Date information is being submitted
- Name(s) of Parent(s)
- Person giving information
- Name/phone number to contact if we need additional information
- **Reason for newsletter items:**
Please be specific. If it is an award, please give the correct name of the award or honor, when it was awarded, who awarded it, etc. If it is a project that an Urban-Suburban student is involved in, please tell the purpose of the project, when and where it occurred, etc. (When possible, submit a photocopy of any newspaper article, certificate, etc. This is helpful, but not necessary.)

Please send information to: Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program
41 O'Connor Road, Fairport NY, 14450
585-249-7047
585-249-7044 (fax)
theresa_woodson@boces.monroe.edu

Urban-Suburban **Alumni** We Want You!

The Urban-Suburban Program will be turning 50 years old!

We need you to help us celebrate. You are the LIVING legacy of this landmark program! Alumni must be VISIBLE, PROUD, and PRESENT! We must show current students, as well as one another, that we are all part of a greater purpose and family. We are brothers and sisters with a common experience that cannot be explained, but has to be experienced.

We need you to be FRONT and CENTER. Please plan on attending the:

Urban-Suburban Alumni Association meeting

Monday, October 1, 2012

6:30PM – 8:00PM

at the Brighton School District Administration Office

2035 Monroe Avenue,

1st floor Boardroom

We want to know what everyone has been up to since high school. The Urban-Suburban Program has established an alumni database; however we know we do not have information on all the students that have graduated. That is where you can be of great assistance.

If you know of any alumni, please have them contact Jessica Lewis, the Community Liaison, at 585-249-7047 or Jessica_lewis@boces.monroe.edu so their information can be recorded. We are trying to create a contact and resource database for use by current participants and other alumni. The data would allow the matching of interests, professional networking, event notification, and the free flow of information and ideas to keep us connected.

See you on October 1st!

Alumni Highlights: Mother and Daughter

Constance Langmade-Miller, Irondequoit High School, Class of 1980

I began my educational journey in the West Irondequoit School District as a 1st grader at Oakview Elementary School. That had to be the scariest day of my life; I was so afraid that I would get on the wrong bus. Oh, how I remember the butterflies in my stomach.



I went to Briarwood for grades 2, 3 and 4.

During that time, I became a Brownie then flew up and got my wings to become a Girl Scout. I remember staying with my den mother in order to make the after school meetings. I also began playing the clarinet while there. After finishing Briarwood, I went to Dake Middle School for grades 5 - 8. This is where I really began to make lifelong friends. I still keep in touch with the friends that I made, both Black and White. Following that, I went to Irondequoit High School. There I became president of our Black Student Union (Embryo Club). Although it was the Black Student Union, our club was diversified; there were several Caucasian students that also participated in the club.

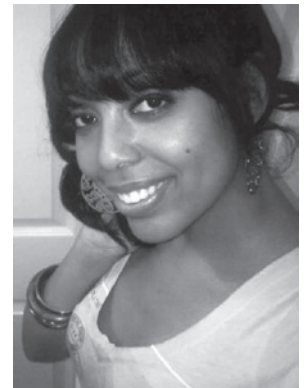
Upon graduating, I knew I had the tools to further my education. I was able to communicate with all races. I felt that my confidence was built at an early age because I was exposed to people who didn't look like me, and my comfort zone had been stretched. When you are young, a person's race isn't that big of a deal; it's when we are older that this seems to come in to play. I think when you are exposed to differences early in life, you find out that we're not really all that different.

After high school, I went to Monroe Community College and graduated with a Liberal Arts degree in 1989 while also working at Delco. I stayed at Delco (Valeo) for 21 years. After Valeo closed and shipped its manufacturing divisions to China and Mexico, I decided to go back to school and pursue my passion, which was nursing. I got accepted into Isabella Graham Hart School of LPN. After graduating in June of 2008, I immediately began working at Rochester General Hospital. In 2011, I graduated from MCC as a Registered Nurse. I'm still working at RGH and I love it! Now I'm thinking about pursuing my Bachelor's in Nursing. My journey to become an RN has been a lot of hard work, but I do believe that my prior educational experience in the district helped prepare me for my new career.

I would like to thank everyone in the greater West Irondequoit School District Community that played a role in my successes; I truly appreciated all of your support.

Denee Miller, Irondequoit High School, Class of 2003

I was selected for the Urban-Suburban Program when I was seven years old and ready to begin second grade.



During my ten years in the West Irondequoit School District, I was privileged to receive an exceptional education along with making some friends for life. After I graduated, I continued my education at Buffalo State College where I received my Bachelor's degree in Business Management. Much like my mother, Constance Langmade-Miller, I have always wanted to serve others. So that's when I decided to go to nursing school. Currently, I am a sophomore in the Nursing Program at Erie Community College in Buffalo. Two years from now, I expect to be a Registered Nurse!



Visit the Urban-Suburban Program Web site at:

www.monroe.edu/US

A program of

