

Gates Chili High School

The Path Begins Here

Each day we create the right conditions for learning.



Building

Each day at Gates Chili High School, we are creating the right conditions for learning. While this has been the case since the high school opened in 1959, our mission was re-invigorated just a few years ago when we initiated the goal of creating a 21st Century learning environment; a school that seeks to meet the challenges associated with preparing today's youth for living in an unpredictable and ever-changing world. That effort led to 374,000 square feet of new and renovated space and the implementation of an enhanced program where Career Pathways play a major role.

Every student that enters our school must be on a pathway for future success. The path we have chosen for them is founded on our Cornerstones of Intellectual Development, Service Learning, Character Development, and Career Development. It is shaped by the principles of Relationship, Rigor, and Relevance. Student travelers on this path may come from different starting points, but each is expected to adhere to the values that define the Spartan Way: Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, and Hard Work.

November 2003

- A goal was set to restructure the 9-12 Program to improve student achievement and expand learning opportunities.
- Attended first annual American High School Policy Conference in Washington D.C.

January 2004

- The 9-12 Committee was established and began by asking, "What is an excellent school?"
- They identified schools of excellence from across the country to study.

March 2004

Benchmark visit to Kennesaw Mountain High School, Kennesaw, Ga., to observe character development practices.

April 2004

Benchmark visit to Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt, Md., to observe a Career Pathway model.

December 2004

The 9-12 Program of Studies guide was redesigned to align with five Career Pathways.

January 2005

The values that define the Spartan Way were identified.

March 2005

The Phase IX Project was approved by voters.

the Path

"I am proud of the contributions made by so many people who have helped us define and realize our vision. Our high school facility respects the learning process and sets the stage for students to thrive and contribute as citizens in the 21st Century."

*- Rick Stein, Superintendent
Gates Chili Central School District*

Spring 2008

- Business students write a plan for running library's juice bar.
- Physical Education staff studies lifetime fitness options supported by new facility.

Fall 2007

- Career Center staffed by full-time teacher focused on career development opportunities.
- Ceramics courses and Digital Video/Graphics courses began.

Spring 2007

- Science staff members initiated development of science inquiry options.
- Career Internships and Shadowing experiences are expanded.

February 2007

- Counseling Center opens.
- Career Speaker program expands.

Summer 2006

- Staff prepared Dynamics of Citizenship course for seniors. Service Learning became a requirement.
- Consultants begin working with departments to improve instruction and course goals.

March 2006

- Departments established goals that were linked to the Phase IX improvements.
- School counselors began guiding students to select courses aligned with Career Pathways.

April 2005

Benchmark visit to Tantasqua High School, Fiskdale, Mass., to observe service learning practices in action.

September 2005

- Spartan Way values were introduced to all Gates Chili High School students.
- Roll-out of Service Learning requirement piloted.
- Career exploration project for Grade 11 English students was piloted.
- The first full-day Freshman Orientation was held.

Re-defining

At Gates Chili High School, creating the right conditions for learning goes well beyond having enough square footage for lockers and desks. We have developed a new concept for what constitutes a high school. We have eliminated the typical repetitiveness of institutional structures. Our school seeks to engage and inspire students, teachers, parents, administrators, and community members. We encourage all who enter the school to notice how inviting and different it feels. A respectful learning environment is the deliberate result of our planning and mission.



A Grown-Up Feel

From terrazzo floors in the Main Atrium to dark wood finishes in the Counseling Center, this is an environment that respects students as they transition into adulthood. The traditional colors of most American high schools have been exchanged for soft, timeless color schemes. Corridors that resemble modern office buildings remind students that they are preparing to enter a global marketplace. Display cases allow students to highlight the achievements they make along the way, from artwork to trophies. We have provided these because success and praise are powerful motivators for students to continue their challenging studies.

Technology

A new technological backbone and state-of-the-art infrastructure runs through the school to connect students to the latest technology. SMART boards, projectors, and computers are regular features in our classrooms. Data hook-ups and wireless routers allow students and teachers to use laptops anywhere.



Did you know...

We have approximately 500 computers in our school

the Mold



Natural Light

Since the High School opened in 1959, the original sprawling courtyards have been filled in with additions and expansions, reducing the amount of light that reached the interior. Our latest round of additions and expansions remedied this. Skylights and expansive windows let light pour in. The importance of this goes beyond aesthetics. Natural light has been proven to improve learning and test scores, which is one more way that our school creates the right conditions for learning. We also have the statistical evidence that demonstrates how these features have improved student behaviors and interpersonal relationships.



Energy Efficiency

Innovative building systems help the high school reduce energy usage. This saves money, allows us to be more environmentally responsible, and creates a healthier and more comfortable learning environment. Interior lights dim automatically and HVAC systems turn off when spaces are unoccupied, allowing this school to operate more efficiently. Our students are taught to run these systems and gain firsthand knowledge that can provide links to careers and workforce opportunities.



The Informed Traveler

The Library



Did you know...

Our library houses approximately 19,465 books



"Our new facilities have created more school spirit, and have provided many new and exciting opportunities for all students to be successful."

- Marc Parina, 2009 Senior Class President, Gates Chili High School

The backbone of a good library is a current and up-to-date collection that promotes intellectual development. Great libraries provide a context for personal growth and discovery. They inspire a joy of reading and encourage the seeking of knowledge. Our 9,000 square foot media/library area strives to inspire a love for learning. Benchmarking and thoughtful goals strongly influenced its design.

Our library's strong, current collection of reference material is a resource for academic studies. It is bolstered by ready access to technology and the Internet. Students and staff have the space to work together on projects and research associated with the courses the school offers.

However, our library must do more than fulfill students' research and study needs. Its soft seating areas are a stop-off point for reading a novel or magazine. The goal is to inspire students to be life-long readers. The juice bar, managed and operated by students in the Business Career Pathway, is a hub for connecting with friends and enjoying healthy refreshments. The large, open mezzanine allows for meetings, receptions, and educational displays. This is a center for study and leisure that imparts a love of reading and expanding horizons.

Looking for Direction

The Counseling and Career Center



Did you know...

We offer 20 Advanced Placement courses and 27 Dual Credit courses

Our students face many important decisions about their future. They also may experience difficult times and need someone to provide a caring and informed ear to their needs. Our Counseling Center is a resource that serves a wide range of student support needs. The central area is a warm and inviting place filled with life.

As students explore "Career Pathways" they hope to follow after high school, this area offers space to nurture their interests and the research materials and technology to make informed choices. Students' ideas are illuminated by natural light as they contemplate their possibilities.



For students facing troubling issues, the Counseling Center has been designed to serve their needs. Our staff offers counseling and intervention services in offices that bestow a sense of dignity. This calming environment allows all involved people, from teachers and students to counselors and parents, a place to diffuse otherwise tense situations and share significant conversations.

This is the place where students can see how far they have come, get their bearings and prepare for the road ahead.

"The space in the Counseling Center is open and inviting. There are always people who want to be here to enjoy its great environment!"

- Sarah Hager, School Counselor, Gates Chili High School

Around the

The Science Atrium



"Our 9-12 instructional program, coupled with the unlimited potential of our new facilities, truly gives our students, staff and community a 21st Century high school to be proud of."

- Timothy Clasgens, Principal, Gates Chili High School

Next Bend



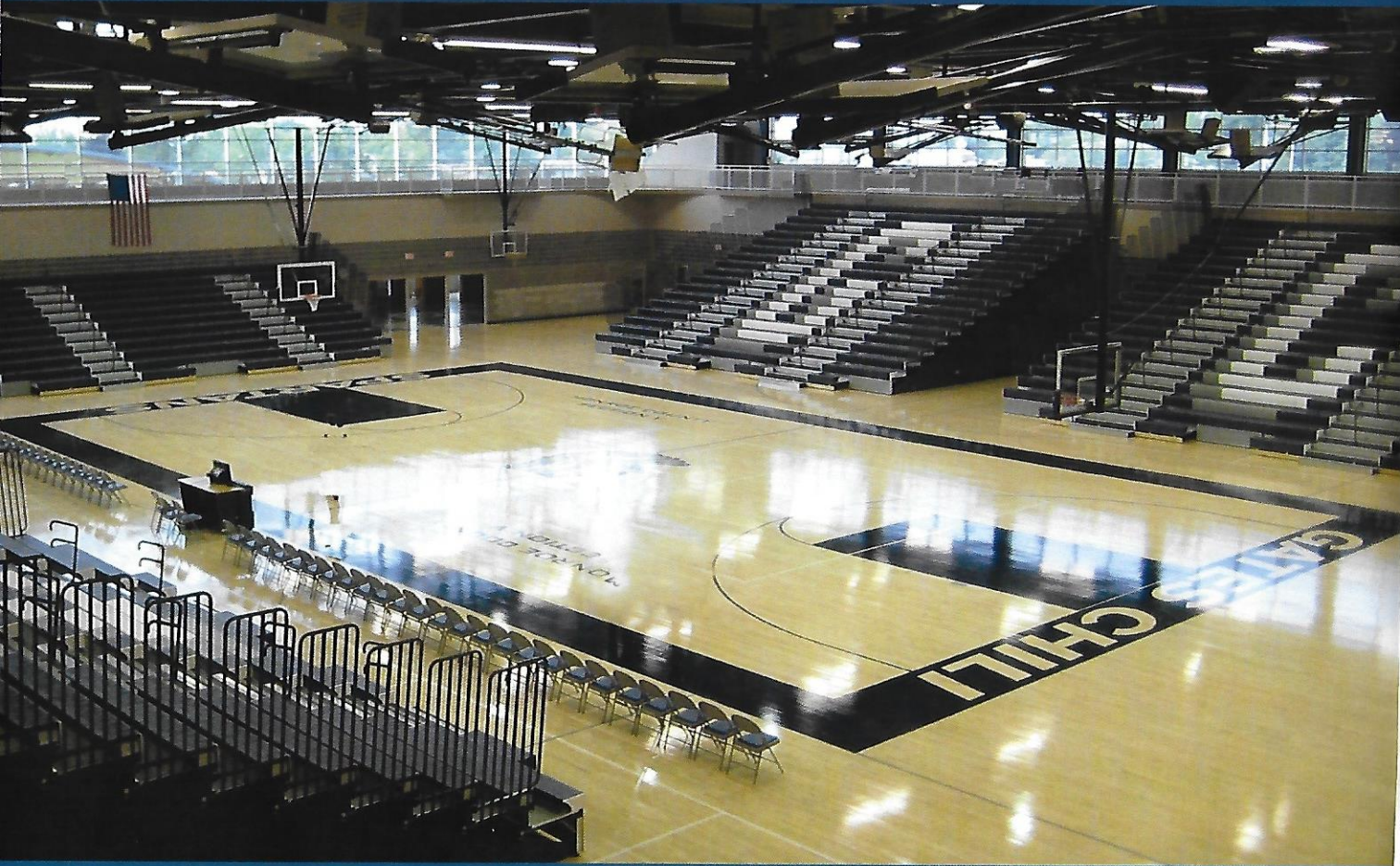
The importance of science and scientific inquiry in the 21st Century cannot be understated. So, we have placed it in the center of the school. Just past the Main Atrium is our Science Atrium, a state-of-the-art facility for Earth Science, Biology, and Chemistry.

An important part of the Science Atrium is the Aquatics Lab that houses fresh and salt water marine life such as tropical fish, local Great Lakes fish, and other species. Sensors in the tanks allow water quality and environmental data to be monitored via the Internet. Planters in the center of the atrium and along the sides are used in botanical experiments and lessons. Tropical and desert plants aid in lessons on germination, soil testing, and climate. Both the Aquatics Lab and botanical areas are maintained by students with the guidance of science staff members.

The Science Atrium received a Gold Citation in the 2008 *American School & University* Educational Interiors Showcase, which recognized it as one of the most effective learning environments in America. It is on par with college science labs. The skylight spanning the corridor bestows an airy, greenhouse quality while proclaiming to students that the sky is the limit.

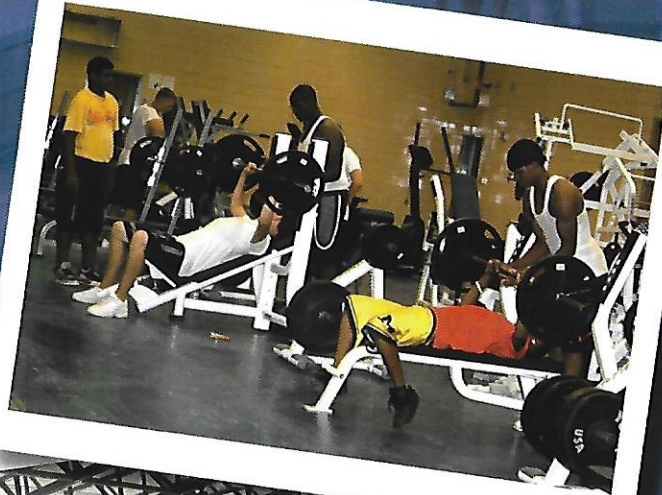
The Strength to Travel a New Path

The Spartan Field House



"The Gates Chili Physical Education staff is proud and excited about our new Spartan Field House. This state-of-the-art facility gives us an opportunity to promote health and wellness."

- Jason Benham, Physical Education Teacher and Head Football Coach, Gates Chili High School



At Gates Chili High School, the focus is on overall wellness. Our Field House is a nearly 100,000 square foot facility that contains a gymnasium, fitness center, indoor track and swimming pool that serves more than our scholastic athletes during sporting events. Its resources promote wellness through a wide range of assets.

Schools are measured by their ability to produce students who will be successful in college and in the workforce. Having lifetime skills that promote physical wellness help enable students, staff, and residents to meet the challenges of everyday life. The new Spartan Field House supports a wide variety of physical activities. Its size accommodates simultaneous athletic practices, with each completed by early evening. Our scholastic athletes can have the necessary time to focus on their studies and training. Opportunities to participate in sports are strongly linked to later life success because they promote confidence and character. These attributes contribute to a healthy and successful adult life.

Creating Your Own Path

For students seeking practical knowledge and first-hand experience with career specific employment opportunities, the Family and Consumer Science Wing is ideal. This hands-on learning environment allows students to explore and analyze future aspirations, enhancing connections with educational experiences and personal interests.

Whether seeking a career in the culinary arts, fashion design, or architecture and interior design, students learn transferable skills in specially designed classrooms. Culinary Art classes are conducted in a kitchen/classroom that is optimized for instructor/student interaction. Students acquire a taste of cuisine and cultures from around the world. Our fashion design students have an ample amount of space to spread out patterns while learning the finer points of garment construction. Students learn the value of personal resource management.

Family and Consumer Science



"The expansion of the Gates Chili High School is a fantastic environment for students to learn in. The students and community are proud to have a state-of-the-art facility that they can benefit from. I have always taken pride to be part of the Gates Chili School District, but with the expansion, I couldn't be more delighted!"

- Lori Legonelli, Parent Representative, Gates Chili School Improvement Team

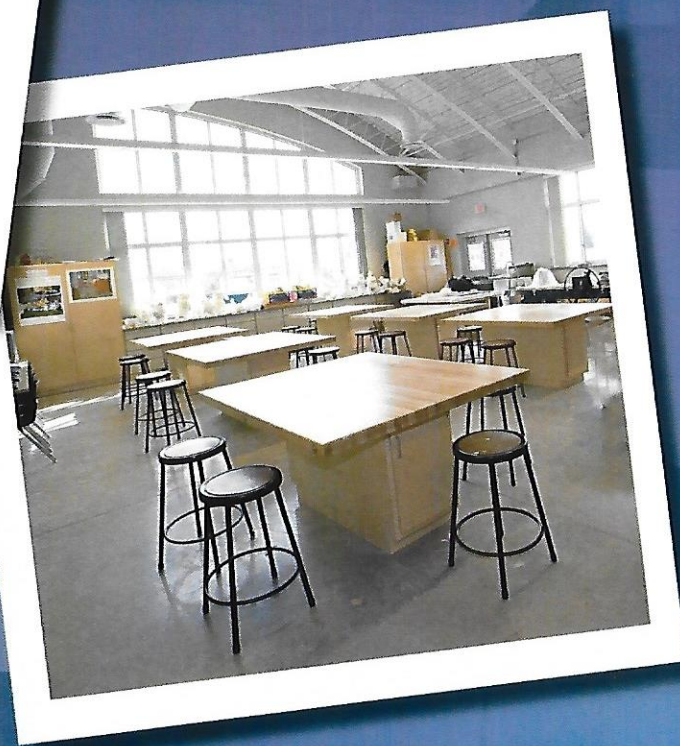
Let Your Creative Mind Guide You

The Art Corridor



Just off of the Main Atrium is a hallway with whimsical flooring and display spaces filled with our students' creations. This is a corridor where the students in our Arts and Communication Pathway take center stage and creative expression has its place. Art studios feature flexible space, durable surfaces and lots of natural light. The unfinished feel with exposed ductwork beckons student artists to unleash their imaginative designs.

In this wing, students are exposed to everything from classic art to high-tech computer design. They prepare for tremendous career opportunities that can take them into the world of graphics design, ceramics and sculpture, jewelry making, printing and video production.



Community

Connections

While the high school is primarily used by students, teachers, and administrators, it belongs to all residents of the Gates Chili School District. The community that supported our nearly \$48 million endeavor to create a 21st Century high school also benefits from this modern facility. Members of every generation stay fit on our indoor track. Families enjoy the indoor swimming pool. Residents are welcomed late-afternoon customers at the library's juice bar. This interaction allows our students to be even more connected to their greater community. At the same time, residents see our students living out the "Spartan Way" values of Respect, Responsibility, Compassion and Hard Work.

Just as our students promote the "common good" through service learning, we expect that our high school benefits the Gates Chili community. As visitors from across the state come to Gates Chili High School for regional sports championships and other major events we host, they will also stimulate the local economy by becoming patrons and guests at restaurants, shopping plazas, and hotels. This will help our school to be viewed as the true community centerpiece that it is.



"Gates Chili High School has always been a great asset in our community. The recent renovations certainly add to that reputation."

- Ralph Esposito, Supervisor, Town of Gates

Travel Companions

Crossroads and BOCES Westside Academy

Gates Chili High School also accommodates students who don't fit the traditional mold. Crossroads, our alternative high school program, assists students in grades 9-12 in meeting their academic needs in smaller, more structured classroom environments. The curriculum parallels that of the traditional school program and offers a positive approach to learning. Goal setting, organization, study skills and critical thinking are the prime focus of our program.



The collaboration between the Gates Chili School District and Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES has allowed both of our organizations to do more than what would be possible alone, in terms of educational quality and financial

resources. By leasing space in the high school, Westside Academy gives its students access to excellent classrooms, physical education facilities, and cafeteria services, while Gates Chili has an additional revenue source. This partnership was instrumental in securing funds for our new high school, and is a testament to our commitment to educate all youth.

Fueling up for the Trip

The Cafeteria

One of the most important ways to help our students perform better in the classroom is to provide them with the nutrition necessary for the healthy growth of their minds and bodies. Our menus and meals, developed by a registered dietician, present students with healthy choices.



As our students work hard in the classroom, they deserve a cafeteria that respects this. Rather than serving food in an institutional manner, students make selections in a food court-like setting. It is a gathering place to meet up with friends. It gives our students the chance to do more than share a nourishing meal. They develop life-long friendships.

Did you know...

We serve approximately 21,000 school lunches and 3,300 breakfasts per month

To Those Who Forged Our New Path

Gates Chili Central School District extends a special thank you to the many people who contributed in making what Gates Chili High School is today. The participation of our dedicated Superintendent Richard A. Stein, Board of Education, faculty and staff acknowledges what a great community Gates Chili truly is.

Gates Chili Central School District also had the privilege of working with dedicated professionals of the following companies who applied the same values that define the Spartan Way. By employing Respect, Responsibility, Compassion and Hard Work, they collaborated with us to make this high school a reality.

Architecture & Engineering Firm

LaBella Associates, P.C.

Structural Engineering

RKW Engineering, P.C.

Interior Design

Creative Details, Inc.

General Construction Contractor

Spoleta Construction LLC

Electrical Contractor

Billitier Electric

HVAC & Plumbing Contractor

Michael A. Ferrauilo Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

Site Contractor

DiFiore Construction Inc.

Roofing Contractor

A.W. Farrell & Son, Inc.

Window Contractor

Flower City Glass Co., Inc.

Asbestos and PCB Contractor

Marcor Remediation, Inc.

Athletic Equipment

Facilities Equipment and Service, Inc.

Food Service Equipment

Main Ford General Supply Co., Inc.

Audio Sound System Contractor

Platinum Sound and Communications, Inc.

Pool Construction Contractor

William L. Watson Co., Inc.

"Thoughtful design plays a pivotal role in how effectively a school fulfills its mission. Our collaboration with Gates Chili, its administration and staff has resulted in an integrated facility that enhances the learning environment for both students and teachers. LaBella is proud to have contributed to the development of such an important community resource with Gates Chili."

- Robert A. Healy, AIA, Sr. Vice President, LaBella Associates, P.C.