



Glens Falls

CITY SCHOOLS

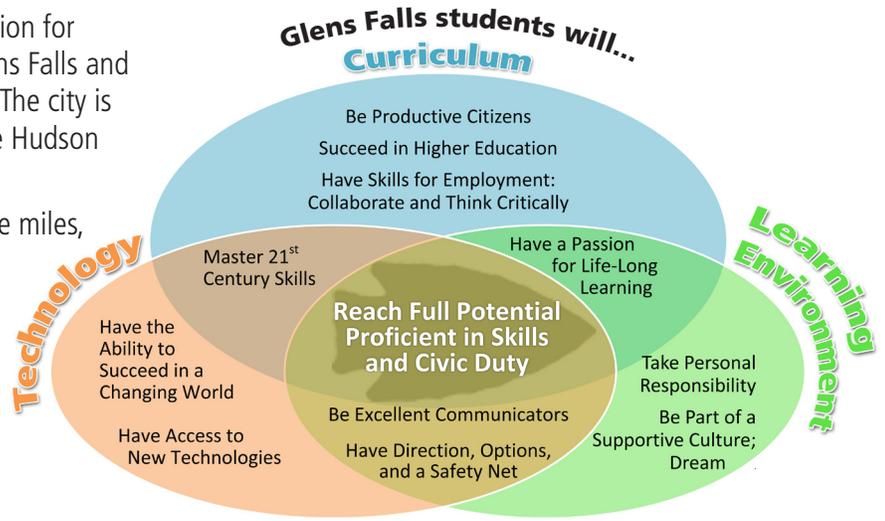


Welcome into GF Nation!

Glens Falls City Schools provide UPK-12 public education for approximately 2,000 students living in the City of Glens Falls and part of the Town of Queensbury in Upstate New York. The city is located north of Saratoga Springs, on the banks of the Hudson River.

Our small-city district covers approximately four square miles, and students walk to and from one of three neighborhood elementary schools, or the middle and high school, which are situated next-door to each other on Quade Street.

Glens Falls Common, a small K-6 district in the city, tuitions its grade 7-12 students into Glens Falls City Schools. They graduate as part of the Glens Falls High School senior class.



Glens Falls City Schools By the Numbers

1,956 
• K-12 STUDENTS •

 5
• SCHOOL BUILDINGS •

39 
• HS+MS STUDENT CLUBS •

 84%
• GRADUATION RATE •

9 
• SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS •

 8:30a.m.
• HIGH SCHOOL START TIME •

47% 
• UNDER-RESOURCED •

 8+
• AP COURSES OFFERED •

84 
• IN NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY •

 \$47.9 million
• BUDGET FOR 2021-22 •

~374 
• FACULTY+STAFF MEMBERS •

 2
• NYS CHAMPIONSHIPS •



Academics

The Glens Falls City School District offers a high-quality academic program that aims to meet students wherever they are on their educational journey. Our whole team works hard to provide every child with enriching experiences and extra support to “foster self growth, a passion for continuous learning, confidence, and the ability to succeed in a changing world.” Our district-wide focus is on “Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships”—an approach to education that weaves data-driven practices into new frameworks for learning.

In 2015, the district put a “take-home” Chromebook into the hands of every Glens Falls 7-12th grader, after months of faculty professional development on Google’s educational suite (Drive, Docs, Classroom, etc.) and a major WiFi/connectivity overhaul in every school building. We are proud to be one of the first districts to invest in this “one-to-one” approach, which was carefully envisioned as both an equity initiative for our under-resourced students, and a vault into 21st century teaching and learning. Each year since then, the initiative has expanded into lower and lower grades, with all K-12 students well-positioned to take home their device even before the COVID pandemic hit in March of 2020.

For several years now, Social-Emotional Learning and student wellness have been a major focus within the district. Beginning in 2014, the district invested in multi-year poverty training, trauma education, and suicide prevention training for every one of our 400-member staff. We have invested in additional social work, psychology, and elementary counseling staff, we support yoga and mindfulness in classrooms, and we happen to have several certified therapy dogs helping our days go well. In the 2021-22 school year, community-building circles are being used frequently from elementary classrooms to Board of Education meetings, with a focus on relationship-building. The later start time for our High School



(8:30 a.m.), implemented in 2013, has positively impacted attendance, engagement, and graduation rates. A commitment to improved technology infrastructure and collaborative spaces has driven major renovation projects and classroom re-designs using flexible, moveable Meteor furniture. These new and reconfigured spaces now increase communication, critical thinking, and creativity among students and adults alike.

Glens Falls’ educational programs align with individual students’ interests, talents, and needs, as well as the New York State Department of Education’s learning standards. Our team of faculty member instructional and technology coaches are immersed in classrooms, providing direct support for our teachers’ growth. Curriculum programs used in 2022 include Curriculum Associates Ready Math and Lucy Calkins/Teachers College Units of Study at the elementary level, to AP, SUPA (Syracuse University Project Advance), Early College Career Academy (PTECH), and SUNY Adirondack programs in the High School. Our Response to Intervention efforts include a Multi-Tiered Support System for students.

Glens Falls High School has earned several silver medals in U.S. News’ Best High Schools rankings. Glens Falls Middle School is proud of our designation as one of New York State’s 13 Essential Elements: Schools to Watch. And all three of Glens Falls’ elementary schools were named “Recognition Schools” by the NYS Education Department for high academic achievement and student growth during the 2017-18 school year. At the same time, the district advanced off the list of NYSED “Focus” Districts in 2019, after being designated in 2016 based on the underperformance of a sub-group with regard to graduation rate. The GFHS 2019-20 overall graduation rate was 84%.

Scan here for more learning in action:



Facilities . . .

The mission of the Glens Falls City School District is to provide a safe, positive and stimulating environment—one that fosters self growth, a passion for continuous learning, confidence, and the ability to succeed in a changing world. At Glens Falls City Schools, we invest in the facilities—and *facilitations*—that create this environment for our students to reach their fullest potential.



Downstairs at the High School, the 1,400-seat auditorium was reconstructed in 2009 to include motorized rigging, theatrical lighting, an electronic acoustical enhancement system, and cloud ceiling. The Glens Fall Symphony, a professional union orchestra, calls our stage its home due to the caliber of the space.



Our three neighborhood elementary schools—Big Cross Street School, Jackson Heights, and Kensington Road School—each house approximately 250 students in grades K-4, with UPK classes hosted in two buildings. Glens Falls Middle School houses approximately 600 students

in grades 5-8, while another 600 or so students in grades 9-12 study at Glens Falls High School.

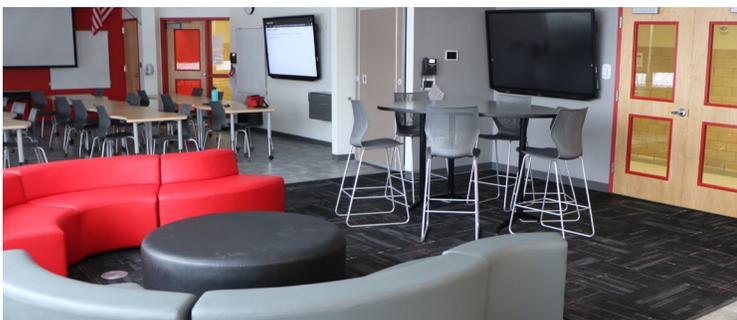
Our small-city district covers approximately four square miles, and students walk to and from one of three neighborhood elementary schools, or the middle and high school, which are situated next-door to each other on Quade Street. Daily bus and van transportation is provided just for students with special needs or circumstances, but buses take many students to athletic contests and field trips almost daily.



Glens Falls High School also features an adjacent turf sports field and track, which will be lit for nighttime use within the next year. Student-athletes and community members use additional natural-grass sports fields, tennis courts, and a refreshment facility at the district's 19-acre Morse Fields complex just down the block from the High School. The 6-lane swimming pool includes mechanical timing systems, indirect lighting, and spectator gallery seating for swim meets, community swim programs, and physical education units.

District residents consistently approve capital projects presented every few years to maintain and improve our buildings and grounds to meet students' evolving needs. Most recently, the High School's third floor wing was converted into a 21st century learning space, with multiple modern meeting configurations and top-tier technological capabilities.

Elementary libraries have been converted into media centers, and renovations to the Middle School's large group instruction room will begin next year. Many classrooms across the district have been re-furnished with flexible seating and workspaces. Most importantly, our teachers participate in significant professional development around using this classroom flexibility to increase student engagement.



Scan here for more on our facilities.

... and Facilitations



While our facilities are a point of pride for GF Nation, our administrators, teachers, and support staff understand there's even more to learning *facilitation* for our students.



Children's physical and social-emotional foundations need to be strong before they can even begin the learning process. That's why our student support efforts focus on building and supporting trusting relationships with families, compassionately fulfilling immediate needs for food and clothing, and fostering

connections with community resources. Our dynamic HOPE Committee welcomes Glens Falls school community members into the HOPE Boutique once a month, where they can "shop" for free clothing items, personal care products, shoes, and even special occasion items during the holidays. These items are donated by—and accessible to—all members of the school community as we work together to break down barriers holding us back from our fullest educational experience.

Two of our elementary schools are fully Community-Eligible, making breakfast and lunch meals free to all students, regardless of family income. Our contracted food services team (currently Aramark) works to provide tasty and nutritious meals for all students in every building. Our active parent leaders coordinate a



district wide Snack-Pack program that provides supplementary food and snacks for children to bring home over the weekends.



More on student support here:



For the last several years, all necessary school supplies have been included in the district's general operating budget, with everything from folders and markers to white-boards and glue sticks provided to students at the start of each academic year. This important equity initiative eases the financial burden on families, the social stigma on students, and the worry of teachers about inconsistency of items, or spending their own money on supplies.

Every student, whether a kindergartener or a senior, has their own WiFi-enabled Chromebook to use at school and take home each night for continued study. The district consistently surveys families on the availability of internet access in their home, and provides individual WiFi connection devices to students who lack a reliable connection at home.



The district has newly partnered with Care Solace, a mental health and addiction treatment "concierge" service that does the legwork of connecting students, staff, and parents to quality counselors and health providers in our local community. This external service augments our significant psychology and social work efforts happening inside every school building. Social-Emotional Learning initiatives are in place for every student in each school.

District and building leadership have earned their reputation for high-quality, timely, and responsive communication with colleagues, families, and the larger community. We preserve and grow relationships with our stakeholders by maintaining authenticity while sharing our news and information. Our school community has come to expect and rely on our open, honest, and frequent communication across multiple platforms.



Arts, Athletics, and Clubs

From the High Schools' biennial musical production, to the Middle School's "NSIME" club (National Science Institute of Middle Earth), to the dozens of athletic teams and clubs, we strive to provide a connection for every Glens Falls student outside the classroom.



In recent years, our Football, Basketball, Odyssey of the Mind, and Olympics of the Visual Arts teams have won NYS championships in their fields. Several individual student-athletes also compete in their sport's state championships each

year, with much pride and success. Glens Falls student-musicians are consistently selected for all-state performance ensembles as well.

Between the high and middle schools, 39 clubs are available for students to join—with such offerings as intramural rock climbing, Vex robotics, Key Club, math team, Battle of the Books, and more.



Parents and colleagues alike consistently note the small, interconnected community as one of the best aspects of the district and its city. We welcome you to experience GF Nation for yourself, as we promote excellence through high expectations and evolving standards for students, staff, parents and community. Join the challenge to reach our personal bests while respecting each person's individuality!



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