

# The Lyncourt Ledger

July 2025

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

<http://www.lyncourtschool.org>

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2025 Lyncourt Valedictorian & Front Salutatorian	Front
Class of 2025	2
Class of 2025	3
Superintendent & Principal Messages	4
Summer Lunch Program	5
Lyncourt Community Fitness Center News	6
Summertime Fun!	7
Athletic Department News	8
Athletic Department News	9
End of Year Festivities	10-11
Retirees	12

### OUR DISTRICT

The Lyncourt Union Free School District is an independent public school district located in the Town of Salina in Onondaga County. Our district borders the East Syracuse-Minoa, North Syracuse, and Syracuse City School Districts. Our school district offers free Universal Pre-Kindergarten for 3 and 4 year old children. We have a Kindergarten-8th grade program and our high school students have a choice to attend either East Syracuse-Minoa Central or STEAM High School.

### OUR COMMUNITY

Lyncourt is a hamlet in Onondaga County, New York, with a population of approximately 4250 residents. Lyncourt is in the Town of Salina and is a peaceful, family-friendly neighborhood known for its clean streets and strong sense of community. With its close proximity to Syracuse, Lyncourt offers excellent access to urban amenities while maintaining its small-town feel. Residents enjoy a slower pace of life but have plenty of activities available to keep them entertained and active.

### MISSION

Building Foundations for Lifelong Success

### VISION

Lyncourt: A Thriving Learning Community for All

## CLASS OF 2025— CONGRATULATIONS Graduates

### Gwenyth Meyer— Valedictorian

What has been your favorite memory from middle school?  
*One of my favorite memories from middle school was when Mr. Rehm let the girls basketball team to McDonalds.*

Which class or subject did you enjoy most and why?  
*One class I liked the most was Mr. Cretaro's class. It was always a chiller class and I didn't feel as stressed as I would in other classes.*

Middle school can be tough— what helped you stay motivated through it all?  
*Some things that helped me keep motivated were getting enough sleep, not caring about things you can't control and make time to do fun things.*

Was there a teacher or staff member who really inspired or supported you along the way?  
*A teacher who has really inspired me and supported me is Mrs. Hayden. She is one of the nicest people I know and cares a lot about others.*

What advice would you give to younger students who want to succeed in middle school?  
*One piece of advice I would give is to not let other people dictate your life choices.*

What's one thing you've learned about yourself during these last three years?  
*One thing I have learned is that just because someone did something bad to you doesn't mean you need to spread the hatred.*



Gwenyth Meyer & Jayden Le



### Class of 2025—

You are ready.

You are bright, thoughtful, creative, and resilient. We believe in you. We are proud of you and we can't wait to see what you do next.

Congratulations!

-Lyncourt Board of Education and Administration



### Jayden Le- Salutatorian

What has been your favorite memory from middle school?  
*When I learned that I got into Spartan Academy on the day of opening night of our play this year.*

Which class or subject did you enjoy most and why?  
*Math and Science because I'm in accelerated and I was good at it.*

Middle school can be tough— what helped you stay motivated through it all?  
*My parents and my friends were able to physically move me forward. Also sheer stubbornness not to give up.*

Was there a teacher or staff member who really inspired or supported you along the way?  
*Mrs. Erikson, Mrs. Hayden, and Mrs. Carrasquillo. Mrs. Erikson for always pushing me to do my best in academics and Mrs. Hayden and Mrs. Carrasquillo for making me come out of my comfort zone on stage.*

What advice would you give to younger students who want to succeed in middle school?  
*Do your best and be able to take challenges head on instead of procrastinating.*

What's one thing you've learned about yourself during these last three years?  
*I am way too stubborn to go down without a fight and am capable of achieving greatness.*

Partnerships Responsibility Integrity Diversity Excellence







**GRADE**  
**8**



Ahmad Ahmad



Ahmed Al Furajji



Ragd Al Zokari



Saifaldeen Alzoubi



King David Asare



Sterling Ayers IV



Antonio Bague



Gabriel Bateman



Amelia Benedict



Olivia Bielak



Zachary Blandford



Johnny Bram



Stone Butkima



Nhanianna Correa



Nicholas Cosco



Abigail Dodge



Carmine Elguiney



Rebeka Gajmer



Ella Gilbert



Alrael Hall



Cil Lien Hming Thiang



Sheamus Hunter



Zau Mun Lat



Jayden Le



Juliana Lettieri



Pablo Marrero Villanueva



Taelon Mazzaroppi



Lucas Mckenney



Gwenyth Meyer



Iah Murphy



Imani Ngoyi



Ly Thi Nguyen



Michael O'Connell



Maya Olmsted



Antonio Ortiz



Charity Par



Lia Pereda Rodriguez



Keyin Poweski



Kendall Scully



April Joy Lin Than Lwin



Braeden Tryon



Alyssa Varre



Benjamin Waldbly



Uriah Williams



Andin Zeka



Myo Zin

## From the Desk of Mr. Austin...

Dear Lyncourt Community,

As we close out another successful school year, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we've made this a year of growth, learning, and community for our students.

At Lyncourt, we are guided by our mission of **building foundations for lifelong success**, and this year has been a powerful example of what we can achieve when we work together in support of that goal. With your help, we continue to build a school where students are encouraged to reach their full potential in a supportive and inspiring environment.

As summer begins, I encourage all of our students to take time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the simple joys of summer. Keep reading, stay curious, and explore new interests—but most importantly, enjoy quality time with family and friends.

We remain committed to our vision of a **thriving learning community for all**, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the fall, ready for another great year of growth and achievement.

Have a safe, restful, and joyful summer!

Warm regards,

James J. Austin  
Superintendent



### Who We Are

At Lyncourt, our shared core purpose, aspirations and expectations are clear:

#### MISSION

**Building Foundations for  
Lifelong Success**

#### VISION

**Lyncourt: A Thriving Learning  
Community for All**

## A Note from Mrs. Davis...

Dear Families,

First, I want to thank you for your continued support, trust, and collaboration throughout the year. Your partnership has played a vital role in making Lyncourt School a nurturing and enriching space for all children. I hope that you are enjoying a safe, healthy, and joyful start to the summer! As we step into the summer, I want to take a moment to share some updates, reminders and helpful information with you.

To stay up to date, please check your Parent Square regularly and follow us on social media. Also, check our Lyncourt School website. We have already started planning for an exciting new year.

Stay tuned for:

- Back to School Dates and Events
- Supply Lists
- Meet the Teacher/Orientation Days and Locker Set Up
- Teacher Assignments and Middle School Schedules will be mailed home in August

Don't forget Salina Free Library will be here every Wednesday at 10:30 am in July with fun and exciting programs.

Also, free lunch is provided to the public, for those 18 years of age and younger. This will be served from 11:30 am until 12:00 pm Monday - Friday.

Wishing you all a summer filled with sunshine, laughter, and wonderful memories. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Warmly,

Kimberly A. Davis  
Building Principal





# SUMMER 2025 LUNCH MENU

## Lyncourt Union Free School

Lyncourt UFSD Is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hamburger or Cheeseburger on WG Bun	Popcorn Chicken w/ Dipping Sauce	Turkey Hot Dog on a WG Bun	Cheese French Bread Pizza	Brunch Lunch
Oven Fries	Cut Green Beans	Corn Tidbits	Steamed Carrots	Breakfast Potatoes
Assorted Fruit	Assorted Fruit	Assorted Fruit	Fruit Cup	Assorted Fruit
Assorted Milk	Assorted Milk	Assorted Milk	Assorted Milk	Assorted Milk

PB&J Sandwich offered as a 2<sup>nd</sup> choice every day!



Breakfast will be served for in school students only from 8:30 am to 9:00 am  
And Lunch from 11:30 to 12:00 pm Monday-Friday

Lunch will be opened to the public 11:30 am to 12:00 pm Monday –Friday  
Free lunch available to ALL children, 18 years of age and under!  
No application required, no registration needed!

🎉 **FREE SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS & TEENS!** 🍴  
**ALL KIDS & TEENS 18 AND UNDER CAN GET FREE, HEALTHY MEALS THIS SUMMER —**  
**NO SIGN-UP, NO HASSLE. JUST SHOW UP! 🙌**  
📍 **LYNCOURT SCHOOL**  
🕒 **MONDAY-FRIDAY | 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM JULY 7-AUG. 15**  
✅ **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

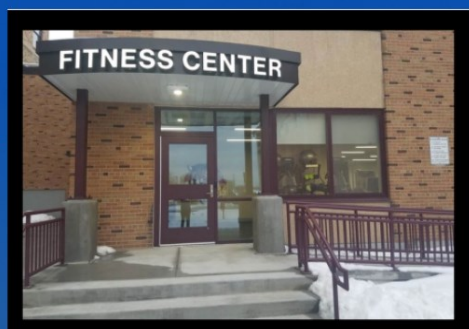
📢 **SPREAD THE WORD & STOP BY!**  
**#FREESUMMERMEALS #HEALTHYKIDS #LYNCOURTSCHOOL**  
**#NOSIGNUPJUSTSHOWUP #SUMMERFUN**





# Lyncourt Community Fitness & Gym Center

## OUR LOCATION:



Enter using these  
doors at the back  
of the building.

## Summer Hours

Starting July 7th:

Monday and Wednesday

2PM - 8PM

Tuesday and Thursday

7:30AM - 1:30PM

Fri Closed

Saturday 7:30AM - 9:30AM

July 12th, 26th

August 9th, 23rd

Follow us on Facebook  
at Lyncourt Community  
Fitness





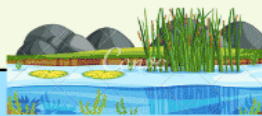
# Summertime Fun!!

## A Warm Hello from Lyncourt

We're delighted to share this bright and cheerful season with you.  
Let's make the most of these sunny days together!

### Summer Reads & Relaxation

1. Read aloud together
2. Choose books together:
3. Explore different types of books
4. Connect reading to activities (trips, hobbies or interests)
5. Create a cozy reading space inside or outside
6. Discuss the story, ask questions, and encourage predictions about what might happen next.



### Peek at the Pond

Beaver Lake Nature Center  
8477 East Mud Lake Road  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1-2:30

Explore what lurks beneath the pond's surface with a naturalist! Learn about tadpoles, caddisflies, giant water bugs, minnows, frogs, and more as we sift through the pond with nets. Be prepared for a 10-15 minute hike to the pond and dress for mess. Open to all ages.

Registration: \$2/Member: \$3/Nonmember  
<https://events.onondagacountyparks.com/events/view/peek-at-the-pond/>

### Salina Free Library

FUN FOR ALL STORYTIME

Preschoolers and early elementary aged children alike will enjoy stories, interactive rhymes and songs, and a craft, based on a different theme each week! For ages 3-7. Feel free to pick up a monthly Storytime at Home Kit for coloring pages, a craft, sticker, as well as songs and rhymes to join along with Miss Monica -- or create your own story time -- from home...Free!!

Location: Salina Free Library  
Each Tuesday from July 8-August 12th  
Time: 11:00-12:00



### Cool Night Out for Everyone

The Moonlight Movie Series at Empower FCU Amphitheater at Lakeview is back! Bring the family on Wednesdays, July 2nd, 9th & 16th and watch movies on the big screens for FREE! Food vendors will be available. Gates open at 5:30pm, movies start at 6:00pm.

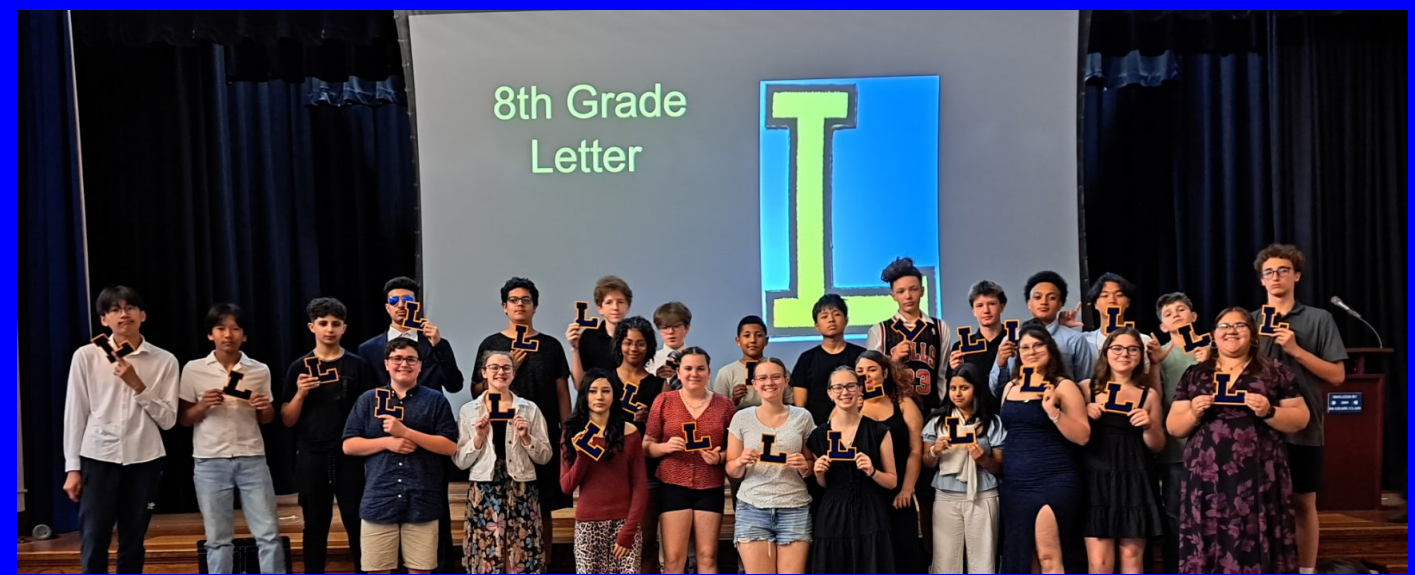
July 2 - Wicked Night: Wicked  
July 9 - Monster Night: Shrek & Monsters Inc.  
July 16 - Animation Night: Elemental & Inside Out 2







On Monday, June 9th, 7th Grade and 8th Grade Lyncourt Athletes were recognized at the Modified Athletics Awards Ceremony.







Congratulations  
athletes!



Lyncourt Olympiads 2025



### What a Fantastic Day at the Onondaga County Olympiad!

Under mostly sunny skies, hundreds of student-athletes gathered at the Fayetteville-Manlius High School track for an unforgettable day filled with energy, inclusion, and celebration.

From the enthusiastic welcomes and cheering fans to running events, throwing competitions, yard games, face painting, and a spirited opening parade — joy and excitement were everywhere you looked.

A special shout-out to the amazing students from Lyncourt, whose enthusiasm and team spirit helped make the day even more memorable. We're so proud of your participation and sportsmanship!

A heartfelt thank you also goes out to our incredible student volunteers, the participating school districts, our community partners at the resource fair, the spirited Fayetteville-Manlius pep band, and the dedicated team at OCM BOCES who brought this event to life. Your support made this day truly special for everyone involved.





### UPK 4 Pizza Party

Ms. Pyland & Ms. Carr's Class enjoyed a pizza party all thanks to their amazing students and the support from home! They had such a wonderful time celebrating a year full of learning, laughter, and growth. The kids enjoyed delicious pizza, fun activities, and lots of smiles with their classmates. It was the perfect way to wrap up a fantastic time in UPK 4!



### The Wild Animal Park Visit with UPK 3 Ms. Meigel and Ms. Borkowski A Wild Time to Celebrate the End of the Year!

As part of our end-of-year festivities, our UPK 3 class had a truly unforgettable experience — a visit from The Wild Animal Park! The students got up close with fascinating animals, including reptiles, mammals, and more, right in the classroom. The animal educators shared exciting facts, answered curious questions, and helped the children learn about nature, habitats, and animal care in an engaging and hands-on way. It was a perfect mix of fun and learning, and the joy on the children's faces said it all! This special event helped us wrap up an amazing year with memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you to our wonderful families for all their support throughout the year. We're so proud of everything our UPK 3 students have accomplished and this was such a great way to celebrate together. Here's to a wild and wonderful summer ahead!



**Flag Day and Teddy Bear Picnic with Ms. Gardner and Ms. Rohe**  
Kindergarten students had fun singing patriotic songs with the entire elementary school, in celebration of Flag Day. They also enjoyed a Teddy Bear Picnic on the front lawn. #LyncourtFun







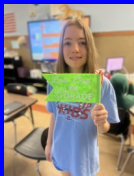
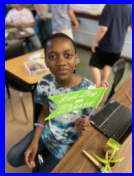
2nd grade at Sehr Park



Kindergarten water balloon toss and popsicles!



Students in 5th grade enjoyed the Lyncourt field days!



## Ice Cream Sundaes!

Students in Ms. Mayott's class enjoyed ice cream sundaes to celebrate the end of the schoolyear.





**Lyncourt Union Free  
School District  
2707 Court Street  
Syracuse, NY 13208**

**Non-Profit Org.  
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Permit No. 581**

### Board of Education

President, Mrs. Kimberly Vespi [kvespi@lyncourtschool.org](mailto:kvespi@lyncourtschool.org)  
Vice President, Mr. Hans Meyer [hmeyer@lyncourtschool.org](mailto:hmeyer@lyncourtschool.org)  
Mrs. Kenda Carfagno  
Mrs. Judy Wilsch  
Mr. Richard Leonardo

## ECRWSS

## Postal Customer

### Donna Fortugno-Erikson

**How Long have I been teaching?**

*I have been teaching for 30 years, but only 20 ½ at Lyncourt.*

**What inspired me to become a teacher?**

*Having been a published, research scientist was a profoundly rewarding and inspiring career; however, I found that I wanted to do more. I wanted to share my passion for science and inspire young people to pursue a career in the science field, and what better way to do so was to become a teacher. This is my "Why".*

**What has been the most rewarding part of teaching for me?**

*The most rewarding part of teaching for me is when students come back to visit and tell me that I was their favorite teacher; or that I taught them much more than science; or that I was the reason they chose a career in science.*

**Do I have a favorite memory or moment from my time at Lyncourt?**

*I have many favorite memories from the relationships I have formed with my students and those made with my close colleagues. The laughter with Dan, Jim, Brian, Rachel and Sue every morning to the lunches spent with Heather debriefing and talking about our next crochet projects. But most of all, I will NEVER forget the honor of the open discussions and sharing of experiences I had with students before and after school about life, friends and school. I will miss this the most.*

**How do I hope my former students remember me?**

*I hope that they remember me as a passionate, inspiring teacher; a person who genuinely cared about them as individuals; who was helpful both academically as well as in their life choices; and that I was a positive influence in their life.*

**How did I stay motivated and passionate about teaching all these years?**

*I just kept focusing on my "WHY". In addition, I had many inspiring moments through the Master Teacher program and BOCES—they gave me opportunities to interact with other passionate teachers to share ideas that worked in the classroom. Most of all, it was the interactions with my students that always kept me passionate and motivated. I wanted to always be the best for them.*

**Are there any traditions or routines in my classroom that I am especially proud of?**

*Greeting students at the door before each class and checking in with each one daily. Starting off each class with a Science Fact of the Day and sharing all of my "Mrs. Eriksonisms" with the students.*

**What are my plans for retirement?**

*I plan to continue working with young people; spend more time with my three grandchildren and friends; travel; garden; read and open my Etsy store.*



### A Dedication to Two Remarkable Educators: Over 52 Years of Heart, Dedication, and Impact at Lyncourt School

Today, we honor not just two teachers, but two pillars of the Lyncourt School community — educators who have, together, dedicated over 52 years to shaping minds, inspiring perseverance, and making a difference in the lives of countless students.

To both of these outstanding educators: thank you. For your patience. Your passion. Your consistency. And most of all, for choosing to show up — day after day, year after year — to help build a better future, one student at a time.

Your impact is immeasurable, and your legacy will forever be a part of Lyncourt's story.

With deep gratitude and admiration,  
The Lyncourt School  
Community



### Lisa Cowburn

**How long have you been teaching?**

*32 years*

**What inspired you to become a teacher in the first place?**

*My aunt, Jill Modafferi, inspired me to become a teacher after I completed a 5 week field placement in her Special Education classroom. What has been the most rewarding part of teaching for you?*

*I think the most rewarding part of my teaching career has been watching the transformation my students make from September to June. Seeing their progress and smiles when they finally "GET IT" always makes me happy and proud.*

**Do you have a favorite memory or moment from your time at Lyncourt?**

*There have been so many memorable moments at Lyncourt School that it is too hard to pinpoint just one. However, the friendships that I have developed over the past 32 years are probably the most meaningful for me.*

**How do you hope your former students remember you years from now?**

*I hope my students know that I always had their best interests at heart, not just academically, but beyond the classroom as well. I always tried to make learning fun for them. So, I hope they remember me as the teacher who inspired and motivated them to persevere, even when things got tough.*

**How did you stay motivated and passionate about teaching all these years?** *Over the years, what truly kept me motivated was the quiet moments- the breakthroughs, thank-yous, and the resilience I saw in my students. Remembering why I started teaching and how I could be a steady, positive presence in someone's life made my calling worth it.*

**Are there any traditions or routines in your classroom that you're especially proud of?**

*I always thought that conducting morning meeting each day was a chance to connect with my students. I think this routine was the most powerful for me.*

**What are your plans for retirement?**

*I plan on working part-time, spending time with my family, especially my granddaughter, and travelling to places I've never been.*