

4 local schools get top ranking

Ranking

Two Pittsford schools, Brighton, HF-L cited

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Four Monroe County high schools were awarded top recognition in the

2018 U.S. News Best High School Rankings.

The rankings evaluate schools in a four-step process, looking at student performance on state assessments, socioeconomic factors, student graduation rates and college readiness.

Pittsford Mendon, Pittsford Sutherland, Brighton and Honeoye Falls-Lima high schools (in order from highest to lowest ranking) were each recipients of the gold award, which is awarded to the top 500 schools across the country, accounting for only 2 percent of schools.

Pittsford Mendon was the highest ranked school in Monroe County, com-

See **RANKING, Page 9A**

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Continued from Page 1A

ing in 18th in the state rankings and 108th nationally.

Pittsford Central School District was the only district in the county to have each of its two high schools receive the top recognition.

“We are always excited to see the hard work of our students and staff recognized,” said Pittsford schools Superintendent Michael Pero. “To be ranked among the best high schools in the nation makes the recognition even more meaningful. Thank you to our community for supporting our schools.”

Brighton schools Superintendent Kevin McGowan matched that enthusiasm.

“We have closed gaps and are seeing unprecedented success for students from every group and of every experience. Congratulations to our entire school community on this great recognition,” McGowan said.

Just behind the gold award, and accounting for 11 percent of schools, is the silver award. Five schools across Monroe County were awarded silvers. Those schools include Penfield High School, Fairport High School, Rush-Henrietta Senior High School, East Rochester Middle Level Academy/Senior High School and Kendall Junior-Senior High School, which is in Orleans County but draws some students from Monroe. Each of these schools also earned silver in 2017.

Across the county border in Ontario County, another school received a silver. In 2018, Victor Senior High School ranked 65 in the state and 558 nationally.

Only one school in Monroe County, School Without Walls of the Rochester City School District, received a bronze recognition.

School Without Walls joined 16 percent of schools to earn a bronze award and was the only school in RCSD to be recognized.

Seventy-one percent of schools nationwide went unranked and received no medal.

Ten school districts across Monroe County went without a single school receiving a ranking. Those districts were Brockport, Churchville-Chili, East Irondequoit, Gates Chili, Greece, Hilton, Spencerport, Webster, West Irondequoit and Wheatland-Chili central school districts.

The only serious difference from this year's rankings to last year's was in Webster. In the 2017 rankings, Webster Thomas High School received a gold award and ranked 51st in the state.

This year, the school district received no recognitions.

Robert Morse, chief data strategist at *U.S. News*, said via email that the reason Webster Thomas dropped out of the rankings was because its performance on state assessment tests was not high enough to pass Step 1 of the four-step methodology.

Step 1 looks at whether students perform better than expected in their state on the assessments, focusing on reading and math results. It also factors in the percentage of economically disadvantaged students. The district did not respond to a request for comment.

A rundown of the 11 local schools that placed:

1) Pittsford Mendon High School

State ranking 2018: 18 State ranking 2017: 14 National ranking 2018: 108

National ranking 2017:

86

Award 2018: Gold Award 2017: Gold

2) Pittsford Sutherland High School

State ranking 2018: 23 State ranking 2017: 22 National ranking 2018: 161

National ranking 2017:

165

Award 2018: Gold Award 2017: Gold

3) Brighton High School

State ranking 2018: 45 State ranking 2017: 40 National ranking 2018: 306

National ranking 2017:

297

Award 2018: Gold Award 2017: Gold

4) Honeoye Falls-Lima High School

State ranking 2018: 51 State ranking 2017: 44 National ranking 2018: 370

National ranking 2017:

360

Award 2018: Gold Award 2017: Gold

5) Victor Senior High School

State ranking 2018: 63 State ranking 2017: 71 National ranking 2018: 558

National ranking 2017:

689

Award 2018: Silver Award 2017: Silver

6) Penfield High School

State ranking 2018: 108 State ranking 2017: 84 National ranking 2018: 1,088

National ranking 2017:

866

Award 2018: Silver Award 2017: Silver

7) Fairport High School

State ranking 2018: 113 State ranking 2017: 98 National ranking 2018: 1,167

National ranking 2017:

989

Award 2018: Silver Award 2017: Silver

8) Rush-Henrietta Senior High School

State ranking 2018: 118 State ranking 2017: 105 National ranking 2018: 1,213

National ranking 2017:

1,079

Award 2018: Silver Award 2017: Silver

9) East Rochester Middle Level Academy/Senior High School

State ranking 2018: 168 State ranking 2017: 146 National ranking 2018: 1,896

National ranking 2017: 1,669 Award 2018: Silver Award 2017: Silver

10) Kendall Junior-Senior High School State ranking 2018:

205

State ranking 2017: 181 National ranking 2018: 2,455 National ranking 2017: 2,295 Award 2018: Silver Award 2017: Silver **11) School Without Walls**

Award 2018: Bronze Award 2017: Bronze

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