

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**BUFFALO SEWER AUTHORITY KICKS OFF NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK
WITH TOURS AND DEMONSTRATIONS AT SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY**

Buffalo, NY – Buffalo Sewer kicked off ‘National Infrastructure Week’ by hosting interesting Visual demonstrations and learning sessions for 120 sixth grade students at Southside Elementary School and hosting tours for them at Bird Island Treatment Facility and Col. Ward Pumping Station. The activities and tours raised awareness about wastewater treatment and collection, stormwater management, and drinking water treatment, providing students with real-world and a hands-on look at what they’d been studying in the classroom since the start of the academic year.

“I am excited about this opportunity to teach and engage students about everything water. The water sector is often an overlooked infrastructure, but is vital to our everyday life especially here in the City of Buffalo where our relationship to water is essential to our environmental, economic and cultural fabric. Buffalo Sewer and Buffalo Water have always been here and will always be here working to protect public health and our Great Lakes waterways from water pollution,” said Oluwole “OJ” McFoy, Buffalo Sewer General Manger, “These two days have not only been great for teaching students what we do, but also showing them the range of career opportunities the water sector has to offer. Buffalo’s investment in water infrastructure are creating careers not just in engineering but in labor, green infrastructure, landscape architecture, and so on.”

The students were divided into small groups over the past two days, and either spent one day at Southside Elementary, or off-site, at the Bird Island Treatment Facility and Col. Ward Pumping station. At the school, there were four rotating stations:

- A classroom presentation on the perils of Fats, Oils, and Greases (F.O.G.) in sewers.
- A tour of the recent Green Infrastructure installations in the Erie County Bailey Peninsula. Natural Habitat and Mungovan City Park behind the school.
- A tour of Buffalo Sewer South Buffalo-Bailey Avenue Pumping Station.
- A demonstration of a combination sewer flushing and vacuum truck and CCTV camera truck.

“Southside Elementary has been incorporating concepts of drinking water treatment and distribution and wastewater treatment into their curriculum for 6th graders over the past year. Their teacher Elizabeth Curtis who has been spearheading this effort, reached out to me earlier This year about providing the students with some real world and hands on experiences about

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what they have been learning,” said Rosaleen B. Nogle, Assistant Principal Engineer for Buffalo Sewer, “I am so thankful to all of my colleagues at Buffalo Sewer, our General Manager OJ, and our partners at GHD, Erie County, and Buffalo Water who have helped put these sessions and tours together. This was a large undertaking but we love what we do, so getting to share that with these students has been an amazing experience.”

Now in its seventh year, National Infrastructure Week is a national advocacy and educational event that takes place from May 13-20, 2019. Across the country, hundreds of businesses, labor organizations, and more come together to spread the message that we must build for tomorrow. Later this week Buffalo Sewer will continue to celebrate Infrastructure Week by joining with Mayor Byron W. Brown to release our Rain Check 2.0 Opportunity Report.

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