

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Kirk Ashton Sentenced to 63 Years for the Ongoing Abuse of Students – Will
Serve 20 Years in New York State Department of Corrections**

Rochester, NY- On Wednesday, November 23, 2022, New York State Supreme Court Justice Renzi sentenced 52-year-old Kirk Ashton to an aggregate number of years after being found guilty of 11 counts of Sexual Abuse in the 1st Degree, 17 counts of Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child, and 18 counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, totaling 63 years in the New York State Department of Corrections. Unfortunately, due to New York State law, he will cap out at twenty years in the New York State Department of Corrections. Kirk Ashton was convicted of these charges for the ongoing sexual abuse of 21 victims. The victims were students at Northwood Elementary School at the time of the abuse, ranging from 2014-2021, when Ashton served as Principal of the school.

This case was investigated by the New York State Police, the Greece Police Department, the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, and Bivona Child Advocacy Center.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara Vanstrydonck, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, and former Assistant District Attorney Amanda Balling, who served as the Deputy Chief of the Special Victims Unit.

“While we are pleased that the court sentenced Kirk Ashton to sixty-three years in the Department of Corrections, he will only serve twenty years allowed by law. Twenty years is not nearly enough for the little boys at Northwood Elementary School and their families,” said Assistant District Attorney Sara Vanstrydonck. “Kirk Ashton is a monster who deserves the maximum prison sentence for the harm he has caused these young victims. I am in awe of the victims who had the strength and courage to face their abuser in court during trial and their families who gave meaningful and heartbreaking statements. Kirk Ashton robbed these boys of their childhood and robbed these families the ability to trust schools to keep their children safe.”

“School is one of the few places parents trust to keep their children safe. Kirk Ashton violated that trust and violated little boys,” said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Ashton’s abuse was devastating for the victims and put an entire school and community in distress. As adults, especially educators, it is our responsibility to protect children and put their interests first. Kirk Ashton targeted those who needed extra support and instead of providing a safe environment, he groomed and abused these children. I want to especially thank the families who spoke at today’s sentencing, their impactful words showed the reality of Ashton’s terrible crimes. The boys showed incredible resiliency during the trial and we hope that this resiliency will benefit them in their continued, difficult journey of recovery.”

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