



HAT'S HAPPENING

CITIZENSHIP • CHARACTER • EDUCATION • WISDOM • KNOWLEDGE • SCHOLARSHIP • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

SEPTEMBER 2009

CLASS OF 2013



REMINDER

REPORT CARD NIGHT

Grades 5-12

November 19, 2009

Middle School 6:00-8:00 pm

High School 7:00-9:00 pm

CLASS OF 2022



Elementary School . . .

The faculty and staff at the Williamson Elementary School are eagerly anticipating September 8, 2009 the first day of the 2009-2010 school year. Aristotle once said, "The habits we form from childhood make no small difference, but rather make all the difference." From the first day of school we set a tone that the habits we have shape our character and our character determines the outcome of our lives. The five Be Wise Rules will continue to be the cornerstone of our character education program. These habits will be reinforced here at school and will help to shape student character. The five Be Wise Rules include:



Anne Ressler
Elementary School Principal

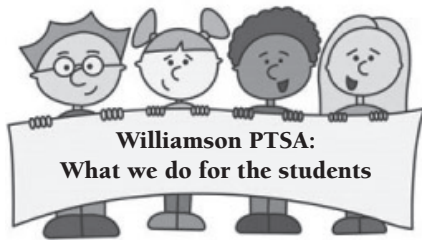
Be friendly and kind
Be cooperative and helpful
Be respectful of the property of others
Be respectful of yourself, adults and other students
Be respectful of the space of others

In addition, we will be continuing the Olweus Anti- Bullying Program throughout the building that sets a tone for teaching pro-social skills that will serve our students well throughout their lifetime.

Introducing our Newest Faculty Members

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our newest faculty members to the community. Each of these teachers completed a rigorous hiring protocol prior to being offered a teaching position at our school. We are pleased to welcome:

Christina DiAntonio- Reading
Erina Guilfoil- UPK
Rachael Young- Special Education
Amy Youngs- 3rd Grade
Larissa Juliano- Library



The Williamson PTSA is not only an organization that raises money through fundraising, it is a parent, teacher, and student association that works to provide the best programs, events, and activities for the children attending Williamson Central Schools. Join the PTSA and help us help your children's school to a brighter future. Listed below are some of the sponsored activities, and events the PTSA donates money to in order to insure your children receive a well rounded educational experience.

High school and Elementary school movie nights
Make gingerbread houses at Middle school
Arts and Education programs at all schools
Reading incentives
Big Pumpkin Day
UPK Graduation
4th Grade and 8th Grade Farewell
Breakfast test Day

4th & 5th grade buddy day
5th grade orientation
Freshman orientation
Learning Fair
Project Graduation
Honor roll
Dr. Seuss celebration cake
Guess speakers/story tellers

Join us for our meetings held in the Elementary School library. Our meeting dates and times are on the school website. We would love to see you.

Middle School . . .

As the students enter the Middle School this fall they will be met by faculty that is committed to engaging instruction and high academic expectations. We continue to strive to offer educational opportunities for the children of the community, in an atmosphere that promotes student and family engagement. The Middle School years are ones of development and opportunity. Together success can be achieved with perseverance and some patience.

We encourage our students to be involved in their school and community through a variety of activities including: volunteer club; newspaper club; roller skating; intramurals; band and chorus; learning fair; ski club; student association; yearbook club and Ripples magazine.

The Middle School Building Planning Team met in August to discuss and mapped out action plans that focus on building student success. Our direction is to enhance student achievement through active learning and differentiated instruction; increasing student passing percentages; and increasing student proficiency on standardized tests.

We are excited to have four new staff members and six experienced staff joining us at the Middle School, each bringing their own unique abilities:

New Staff to the District

Jodi Baier – Student Aide
Dee Dee Eaton – Student Aide
Larissa Juliano – Library Teacher
Kari Miller – Teacher Assistant

Staff New to the Middle School

Christi Byron – Music Teacher
Theresa Byron – Student Aide
Stephanie Poole – Math Teacher
Rich Rozzi – 5th Grade Teacher
Patty Sheridan – Art Teacher
Jessica Warchocki – Music Teacher

The faculty is excited and optimistic for the upcoming school year. Continuing to review existing educational opportunities, adding few new faces, along with the core of experienced teachers, we look forward to the upcoming academic year.



John E. Fulmer
Middle School Principal

High School . . .

Stepping Up to the Challenge!

The doors of Williamson High School are open for the 2009-2010 school year! We're excited to work with the Classes of 2010 – 2013 on their journey toward success. Our first priority at WHS is that each student experiences academic success and has every possible opportunity to pursue their dreams no matter how big or small! A variety of course offerings including electives, Advanced Placement, and FLCC Dual-Credit as well as extra-curricular and club opportunities are available to our students.

We have many outstanding achievements to celebrate and build on at the high school to start the new school year. Passing percentages on 10 of 11 June Regents Examinations increased or stayed the same. Other highlights include 59% of our June graduates earned Advanced Regents Diplomas and 34% received Regents Diplomas. Our three August graduates earned Regents Diplomas as well.

Although there are many wonderful achievements to build on as we start the new school year, much time was spent over the summer reviewing achievement data and looking at strategies and opportunities to ensure the success of every Williamson High School student. We will continue to look for new ways to meet the needs of our most at-risk students as well as approaches to help all students reach their fullest potential.

In closing, our Mission is to provide a learning community that inspires character, service, knowledge, and wisdom. To that end, we will conclude the first week of school with a special guest speaker, Mr. Keith Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins is a national youth speaker who addresses over 400,000 students, educators, business owners, and parents each year. He will do a leadership workshop for Student Council and other student leaders and then close the day with his "Stepping Up to the Challenge" assembly for the entire student body. Feel free to visit <http://www.keithhawkins.com/> for more information.



Douglas Lauf
High School Principal

Please welcome the following staff to the WHS Family for 2009-10:

Brendan Noon – Earth Science and Physics
Sue Anseuw – Custodian (full-time)
Pete Featherly - 1-to-1 Aide (full-time)
Rebecca Manning – Cafeteria Staff (part-time)
Carol Smith – 1-to-1 Aide (full-time)

Amanda Ryan – Learning Center
Doreen D'Eufemia - 1-to-1 Aide (full-time)
Mike Mack – Technology (.2 HS/.8 MS)
Brenda Raymer- 1-to-1 Aide (full-time)
Shaye Tanner – Teaching Assistant (.5 MS/.5 HS)

Code of Conduct

As part of the newly enacted **SAVE** legislation dealing with student safety and the school's response to emergency situations, a code of conduct has been passed by the Board of Education. This code addresses many issues of concern. A summary of the code can be found below. A full version of the code can be found in each building library, the public library, and on our website (www.williamsoncentral.org).

I. Introduction

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive and District personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other school personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

The District has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

The Board of Education recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure that discipline when necessary is administered promptly and fairly.

II. Students Rights and Responsibilities

The District is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal law. Students will also have a set of responsibilities for which they will be accountable.

III. Essential Partners

These include parents, school personnel, teachers, counselors, administration, Superintendent and Board of Education.

IV. Student Dress Code

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other school personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

V. Prohibited Student Conduct

The Board of Education expects students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, school personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the penalties for their conduct.

VI. Disciplinary Procedures and Penalties

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in a way that students view as fair and impartial. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

VII. Discipline Of Students With Disabilities

The Board of Education recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problem behavior. The Board of Education also recognizes that students with disabilities enjoy certain procedural protections whenever school authorities intend to impose discipline upon them. The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations.

VIII. Student Searches and Interrogations

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring an atmosphere on school property and at school functions that is safe and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the district code of conduct. In addition, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to conduct searches of students and their belongings if the authorized school personnel has reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will result in evidence that the students violated the law or the district code of conduct.

IX. Visitors

The Board of Education encourages parents and other district citizens to visit the district's schools and classrooms to observe the work of students, teachers, and other school personnel. Since schools are a place of work and learning, however, certain limits must be set for such visits. The Building Administrator is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds.

X. Public Conduct on School Property

The district is committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment that is conducive to learning. To create and maintain this kind of an environment, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions. The purpose of this code is to maintain public order and prevent abuse of the rights of others.

The full **"Code of Conduct"** is on file in the main office of each school building, in the library of each school building, in the Public Library, and on the District website.

PESTICIDE NOTICE

The Williamson Central School District does not intend to use pesticides; however, New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2002, requires all public and non-public elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The Williamson Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- a school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72-hours following an application;
- anti-microbial products;
- nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- the application of EPA designated biopesticides
- the application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25;
- the use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and
- biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour notification list.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the form below and return it to Terry Pulver, the Williamson Central School District pesticide representative at: PO Box 900, Williamson NY 14589 or fax (315) 589-7611.

Williamson Central School District Request for Pesticide Application Notification (please print)

_____ School Building Name: _____ Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Please feel free to contact Terry Pulver, the Williamson Central School District pesticide representative at: PO Box 900, Williamson NY 14589, telephone no. (315) 589-9661, or fax no. (315) 589-7611.

Public Notice of Access to Student Records and Release of Directory Information

As required by law and school district policy, this public notice is made to advise parents and guardians of students, and to students 18 years of age or older, about access to and use of student records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Rights of Parents/Guardians and Eligible Students

Student records are privileged and confidential. Records are not disclosed to persons other than a student's parents or guardian, or the student, if over 18. At the time of inspection of student records appropriate school personnel must be present.

Parents or Guardians and eligible students over 18 have a right to:

- inspect and review a student's educational record.
- know that the intent of the school district is to limit disclosure of personally identifiable information in those records, except:
 - (a) by prior written consent of the student's parents or guardian, or student, if over 18.
 - (b) disclosure as directory information as defined below
 - (c) as otherwise legally allowed for access by school officials
- request that records be amended to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of a student's privacy or other rights
- file a complaint with the US Department of Education alleging failure of the school district to comply with FERPA rules & regulations.

Requests for access to student records or procedures to be followed for amending student records should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools.

Release of Directory Information

The Williamson Central School will release or publish in school newsletters, school or student newspapers, athletic programs, musical or theatrical programs, news releases, district web page and Channel 6 some and/or all of the following directory information pertaining to students as may be appropriate under the circumstance; name of students, photographs of students, name of parents, grade, age, height & weight of athletic team members, major fields of study, participation in school activities, extra-curricular activities and sport programs, academic honors, degrees, achievements, awards and scholarships.

Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, Williamson Central School District must disclose to military recruiters and institution of higher learning upon request the names, addresses and telephone numbers of high school students.

Under Title 34, Part 99, parent or eligible students who do not want this information released must make a request in writing to the Superintendent of Schools within 30 days of this notification. Failure to make such a request shall be deemed consent to release directory information during the present school year.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL FIRE INSPECTION

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for the 2009-10 School Year of the school buildings of the Williamson Central School District for fire hazards, which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, and employees therein, is current, and the report thereof is available at the Business Office for inspection by all interested persons.

By Order of The Board of Education - Wendy E. Havens, District Clerk

NOTICE - ASBESTOS CONTROL

ASHERA is the acronym for a federal law that was enacted in 1987. It requires all school districts to re-inspect facilities for building materials containing asbestos. Our facilities have been inspected and response actions are planned to insure a continued safe environment for our students and employees. Activities include training of maintenance staff to prevent disturbance of asbestos and periodic re-inspection and surveillance activities by trained personnel. Details of such activities are described in the District's ASHERA Management Plan that is available for your review in the Business Office. If you have any questions or concerns in this regard, feel free to contact Terry Pulver, Williamson Central School Director of Facilities (315) 589-9661.

Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents and students who are 18 or emancipated minors ("eligible students") certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- **Consent** before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)-
 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
 3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 5. Critical appraisals of others whom respondents have close family relationships;
 6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
 8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- **Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –**
 9. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
 10. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
 11. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- **Inspect**, upon request and before administration or use-
 1. Protected information surveys of students;
 2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
 3. Instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum.

Williamson Central School has adopted policies regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes.

We are notifying you that you have the option to opt out your student and/or inspect the following survey.

Activity: Risk & Preventative Factors Survey
On or about: Fall, 2009
Grades: 7-12

Summary: This is an anonymous survey that asks students questions about behaviors such as drug and alcohol use, sexual conduct, violence, and other at-risk behaviors. The survey also asks questions of a demographic nature concerning family make-up, the relationship between parents and children, and use of alcohol and drugs in the community.

Opt-out: (If you do not want your child to participate in this activity, contact the District Office at 589-9661 or me personally (mehresman@williamsoncentral.org) within 10 days of receipt of this note if you do not want your child to participate in any/all of these surveys.)

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

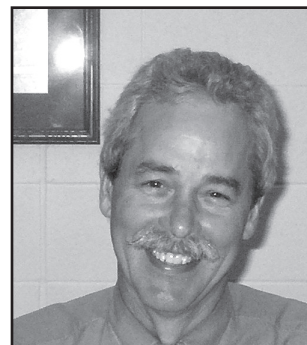
Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

Message from the BOE President...

"Making mental connections is our most crucial learning tool, the essence of human intelligence; to forge links; to go beyond the given; to see patterns, relationships, context."

-- Marilyn Ferguson, American author, 1938-2008

With another summer behind us, it's time to look forward to the coming school year. On behalf of the entire school board, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning students, teachers, and staff. The summer has been well-spent preparing for the 2009-2010 academic year. New programs and schedules are in place. Building planning teams have been working through new ways to incorporate differentiated teaching to provide educational opportunities based on different learning styles. Most important, we are working together to create an educational environment that instills respect, supports lifelong learning and reflects the changes that are affecting our community.



Michael Collins
Board of Education President

It is important to look at the Williamson school district in its context within the community. Not only is it the second largest employer, it is a hub of activity and a significant draw for potential residents who place a high value on quality education. Our community should be proud of our students. After field trips, school sporting events, class trips and other venues where they interact as a group, invariably the feedback from people outside the district is that the Williamson students are exceptionally well-behaved, interested and fun to be around. These are traits that reflect the care and upbringing of family and friends actively supported by the community. You should be proud of your accomplishments. Take a moment and think about all the links between the district, the community and the world. As a species, we have never been more connected. Those connections carry a responsibility to treat one another with respect and step outside ourselves to understand differences and recognize similarities. Connectivity allows us to look deeper into life, to satisfy our curiosity about the universe and our place in it. It's called learning. As a district, we rely on educational foundations to build and encourage new ways of thinking. It is an exciting time to be part of the process. Look for ways you can engage. Stay connected.

"You don't have to be a "person of influence" to be influential. In fact, the most influential people in my life are probably not even aware of the things they've taught me."

-- Scott Adams (creator of Dilbert)

Welcome back.

Michael L. Collins, President
WCS Board of Education

Body Mass Index

As part of a required school health examination, a student is weighed and his/her height is measured. These numbers are used to figure out the student's body mass index or "BMI". The BMI helps the doctor or nurse know if the student's weight is in a healthy range or is too high or too low. Recent changes to the New York State Education Law require that BMI and weight status group be included as part of the student's school health examination. A sample of school districts will be selected to take part in a survey by the New York State Department of Health. If our school is selected to be part of the survey, we will be reporting to New York State Department of Health information about our students' weight status groups. Only summary information is sent. No names and no information about individual students are sent. However, you may choose to have your child's information excluded from this survey report.

The information sent to the New York State Department of Health will help health officials develop programs that make it easier for children to be healthier.

If you do not wish to have your child's weight status group information included as part of the Health Department's survey this year, please print and sign your name below and return this form by **September 30, 2009** to:

Amy Burdett, School Nurse
Williamson Elementary School
6036 Highland Ave.
Williamson, NY 14589

Please do not include my child's weight status information in the 2009-2010 School Survey.

Print Child's Name

Date

Print Parent's Name

Parent's Signature

Message from the Superintendent . . .

As we start a new school year, we see many bright shining faces with new backpacks and pencils enter our elementary school. These students may have a very different experience by the time they graduate from High School in Williamson. One of the goals of our district has been to provide a world class education that is comparable to what these students would receive in any other high school. With a population drop of over 200 over the last six years, we are faced with a challenge in meeting this goal. In our elementary school now, we have two grade levels that number in the sixties. As these students move through our system and into High School, it will be difficult to offer the wide ranging program that we now offer. As the population at the High School declines, many of our classes, other than the core areas, become "singletons". These are classes that are offered one time a day and are difficult to fit into students' schedules.

There are two solutions to this problem, one passive and one active. The passive one would be to do nothing and hope that our population will increase by the time these students reach ninth grade. The other solution is to look at options. As part of the second solution, the Williamson Board, along with the ten other county school boards, has agreed to look at options for regionalizing high schools in the county. The first step in this process is a community meeting to explain the study and answer any questions that you might have. This meeting is set for Thurs., October 1 at 4:15 in the High School Auditorium. Another part of the process is to survey all stakeholder groups. A survey to accomplish this is included in this newsletter. Please take the time to fill it out and mail it back to us. Results from the study and alternatives to consider will be shared with the community this winter. Again, I want to emphasize that this is a feasibility study, no one has agreed to do anything differently.

I hope that you will consider being part of the process. Please feel free to contact me by phone (589-9661) or by e-mail mehresman@williamsoncentral.org.



*Maria Ehresman
Superintendent of Schools*



New Staff:

*Left to right: Rachel Young, Erina Guilfoil, Amy Youngs,
Christina Di'Antonio, Brendan Noon, Larissa Juliano*



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Williamson, NY 14589

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