



HAT'S HAPPENING

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

DECEMBER 2018



Holiday Events



4th Grade Holiday Concert

Tuesday, December 11th at 7:00 pm (High School Auditorium)

7th and 8th Grade Holiday Concert

Thursday, December 13th at 7:00 pm (Middle School Auditorium)

5th and 6th Grade Holiday Concert

Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00 pm (Middle School Auditorium)

High School Holiday Concert

Thursday, December 20th at 7:00 pm (High School Auditorium)



Old English H Awards

The Old English H Award is presented to the student in each class who had the highest average in the course.

Front row: Rachel Ramsdell, Maria Ortiz, Madeline Bortle, Autumn Frost, Irini Konstantinou, Annie Alexander, Claire Consadine, Austin Brown
Second row: Lydia Wyble, Grace Wren, Olivia Tunley, Makayla Pike, Jake Kuhl, Caleb Taft, Gavin Buehler, Lucien LaFleche, Madeline Dinehart, Kayli Burggraaff. **Third row:** Trayton Schmeelk, Thomas DeFisher, Hope Beckwith, Jayden Sherman, Madison Weber, Joshua Bailey, Connor McVey, George Konstantinou, Justin Eaton, Maxwell Farrington



Greg Macaluso
Superintendent of Schools

Message from the Superintendent . . .

Navigating the Winds of Time

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination." ~ Jimmy Dean

We all know that we live in an ever-changing world; we always have and we always will. As we progress into a more technological world, navigating in these waters can become increasingly difficult for our young people. We as adults and educational institutions need to adjust our curriculum and structures to respond to these changes. We have put many supports in place to help students with their social-emotional and academic needs under a structure called Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).

MTSS encompasses three levels of support. Tier I consists of supports that we put in place for all students and is a part of our core instruction. Early intervention and acquisition of learning and coping skills is the best way to avoid problems downstream. We want to equip our kids with the age appropriate tools they need as they grow. Tier II is for students who have been identified as needing additional help learning the skills taught in Tier I. This support normally takes place outside of the time dedicated to core instruction and in small groups. Tier III is even more explicit support focused on remediation, dedicating more time than Tier II supports, and is done one-on-one with an adult or in smaller groups than Tier II.

We recognize that more and more students need additional supports navigating in our fast-paced world. Our goal is to always teach our kids the skills needed to be happy, healthy contributors to our society and to give them the targeted support they need when they struggle in social-emotional and academic ways. The Williamson imperative is to "Do what is right for children." We will continue to adjust our sails as the winds of time change so we can stay on course to reach that destination.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season . . .



Williamson Central School

Deep Roots | Core Values | Bright Futures

High School . . .

We have just wrapped up our second annual Student Success Day and it was even bigger than last year's, with more agencies from our area, a resource fair, a greater variety and number of breakout sessions for students to choose from, as well as moderated panels in the different career pathways available to our students.

A huge thanks to the high school staff, Pathways Counselor Tracy O'Hara, and our 45+ local partners and community resources.

You can see we recognized a large number of students for earning an Old English **III** award from the 2017-18 school year, 28 to be exact! 10 of these students received more than one highest average award, with one student earning 4 and two who earned 5 Old English **IIIs**!

As we are beginning winter sports, we acknowledge the strong seasons had by our student athletes this fall, many of our teams earning accolades such as our girls' XC team league championship, and our #1 seeded boys and girls soccer teams. Kudos to Justin Eaton named Wayne County Player of the Year again and Mr. Newby Coach of the Year for Class C1.

In early December, we will be sending Joshua Bailey to All-State Orchestra here in Rochester. Josh was one of only a few selected from percussionists across the state to perform with this ensemble - a tremendous honor for him, our music department, and our school community.

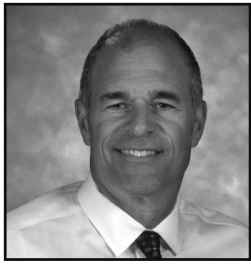
We are continuing our investment in Personalized Learning and Schoology. You can get the inside scoop on what your child is learning about, and it sometimes looks very different from what we experienced as students! Flexible seating, digital content that adjusts to remedy skill needs, and 'playlists' of class activities are just a few changes to the feel of the school day, all without sacrificing the time-honored experiences of digging into a good book, learning how to take notes, and figuring out how to use those tricky compasses.

In December, our entire junior class is visiting either Keuka College or FLCC for their annual college visit. Many juniors are already beginning this process with parents, but this is a slightly different experience when done in a group of counseling staff, teachers, and peers. We look forward to seeing you at our Holiday Concert on December 20th, basketball, indoor track, and wrestling contests. There is no better place to be on a cold winter's night than our gym cheering on your own Marauders!



*Kathryn Avery
High School Principal*





John E. Fulmer
Middle School Principal

Middle School . . .

Our students have successfully completed their first 10 weeks of the school year. Students are engaged in learning and developing socially. The faculty encourages students to stay organized and to give their best effort. Academic and behavioral expectations remain high for all students. We have incorporated our district wide PRIDE philosophy in all we do here at the Middle School.

Report cards accurately identify student's progress toward meeting Learning Standards. Student's work habits are in a separate column, alongside individual assessment scores for each class. Students are proud of their accomplishments and teachers are continuing to work diligently to instruct and challenge them. Students are encouraged to seek assistance if needed and be responsible for their learning. Together with families, we encourage students to put forth their best effort and engage in learning and participating in the whole school experience.

Activities that have occurred in the first quarter and into the second quarter of this year at the Middle School include:

- Student Association – Officers have been elected and many activities are planned for the future. There will be a first aide fundraiser this year.
- Roller Skating – 5th and 6th graders have the opportunity once again this year. 7th and 8th graders will have an opportunity in the spring.
- Spelling Bee – The annual spelling bee begins in December.
- Book Fair - All students were given the opportunity to purchase discounted books and school supplies in November. More book fairs will occur this school year.
- Travel Club – Thirty-eight 8th grade students (along with 8 staff) traveled to Washington D.C. in October.
- International Club and Newspaper Club – Active clubs with over thirty participants.
- Radio Club (PAWS2listen) – Taped radio programing is in full swing again this year.
- Odyssey of the Mind – Three teams from the Middle School will participate regionally.
- Red Ribbon Week – A week-long focus on educating a drug and bully free lifestyle school wide. A great deal of school spirit was evident.
- 100 Mile Club – Over 50 students are participating in running/walking activities.
- MTSS/PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies) – Monthly forums have continued, promoting our PRIDE philosophy (P-Perseverance; R-Responsibility; I-Integrity; D-Dignity; E-Excellence). Activities include student PRIDE tickets leading to positive behavior rewards.
- Harvest Fest – Building wide pumpkin launching and grade level visits to Long Acre Farm and Lagoner Farms.
- Career Carnival – Thirty 8th grade students attended Wayne County Career Carnival in Sept.
- PTSA fundraisers – Box tops are currently being collected with grade level competition.
- Modified Athletics - Over 75 students participated in extra-curricular athletics at the Middle School during the fall season.
- Report Card Night – Over 55% of Middle School parents picked up their students report card and had an opportunity to speak directly to classroom teachers.
- I-Ready – Our on line diagnostic assessment and instructional tool has begun supporting students and their unique educational needs.
- Volunteer Club – Activities include: Holiday outreach; volunteering at local farm; and supporting Make-A-Wish Foundation.
- Veteran's Day Celebration – This celebration (held on November 9th) honored our community's Veteran's and their families. Seventy-five Veterans' and their families attended.
- Mission to Mars – Hands on simulation for 6th graders at the RMSC.
- Beauty and the Beast – Students have been preparing for this production that takes place on December 7th, 8th and 9th.
- Robotics Club – This third year club will focus on design and coding of robotic tools.
- Holiday Concerts – Concerts will be coming for 5th/6th graders December 18th and 7th/8th graders December 13th. Both concerts begin at 7pm.

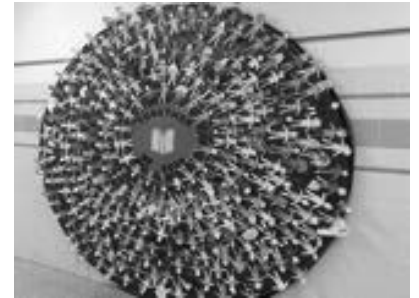




Ellen Saxby
Elementary School Principal

Elementary School . . .

Williamson Elementary has had a great start to the 2018-2019 school year! It is hard to believe we are already in the month of November.



We look forward to the growth and success of all our students this school year. Literacy in all areas continues to be our focus. Mrs. Sharp, our library media specialist, kicked off our reading focus with this wonderful display depicting staff and students as readers!

Makerspace continues to be an exciting learning opportunity for our students. Makerspace is a devoted time where students can create learning projects and share ideas based on materials and interest. Students work together across grade levels to create these learning opportunities.

We celebrated Apple Crunch Day on Thursday, October 25th. The entire building munched and crunched our apples donated by the Sonnevile family and Lakeville Orchards. It was a great building-wide community event, as well as a lesson on foods grown in our very own community!



Geography Awareness was the week of November 12th. Students wore shirts with places around the world on them and located them on a map. In addition, Journey Bear traveled to classrooms as students learned about National Parks.



Thank you to all our teachers and staff for creating wonderful learning opportunities for our elementary students each day!

Veteran's Day Celebration



Home-School Connection – How Technology Can Help!

As you may be aware, Williamson Central School District is now using **Schoology** (skool-oh-gee) in an effort to enhance communication between school and home.

Schoology is the dashboard to your child's learning in the classroom and beyond. We know that the use of Schoology will improve connectivity and communication across our district. With Schoology, students can digitally submit homework assignments, review grades, take tests and see upcoming assignments. As a parent, you will be able to view your child's activity within the platform and monitor grades and assignments in real time.

Teachers are using Schoology in a variety of ways and at varying levels that are dependent on content and grade. Parents of students in **UPK – 12th Grade** have access to their student's courses and information through Schoology Parent Accounts.

A **Schoology Parent Account** gives you access to:

- Classes your child is enrolled in
- Your child's upcoming assignments and class materials
- Assignment and assessment grades
- School and class announcements

It is simple to create your Schoology Parent Account. Visit our website www.williamsoncentral.org for more helpful and detailed information regarding Schoology, including how to create your account.

The district will continue to use Schooltool as well. Here is the breakdown of the different uses for Schoology and Schooltool:



- View Student Schedules
- View Student Attendance
- View Student Final Course Grades and Ratings

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school for more information or help using or accessing Schoology.



- View Student's Class Assignments, Dates Due
- View Student's Grades on Assignments
- Check Status of Assignments (complete/in progress/submitted/overdue)
- Communicate with Teachers
- Real Time Access to All Current Classes
- Calendar of Upcoming Assignments and Due Dates

Message from the BOE President...

It's hard to believe we are already through the first few months of this school year! This also means I'm almost half-way done with my first year as the Board of Education President. This is a role that I have always respected, and I am committed to serving our students, our staff, and our community in this capacity.

I am a lifelong resident of Williamson and appreciate the quality education I received as a student in this School District. I graduated from Williamson in 2000 and moved on to complete my Bachelor of Science degree in Communication from Cornell University. Following graduation, I became a graduate teaching assistant for the Cornell Department of Education while completing my Master of Professional Studies degree.



Jamie Sonnevile
Board of Education President

After college, I returned home and worked for WCS for eight years, first as the Technology Integration Specialist and then as the Director of Technology. I also served at the pleasure of the Board as the District Claims Auditor for five years. Currently, I am the Director of Technology at Newark Central School District and can also be found at itClix, a technology consulting business that I founded in Pultneyville.

WCS has always provided a quality education while staying firmly rooted in tradition. Last year, the Board of Education participated on a Branding Committee that looked to create a new logo and brand statement for the District. The resulting logo and statement (Deep Roots | Core Values | Bright Futures) accurately depicts this School District.

When I ran for the board a few years ago, I stated that my interest was to ensure that all children in this District had access to a quality education. I believe the role of education is to create lifelong learners. Today, this means teaching critical thinking and problem solving while also focusing on project-based learning. To accomplish this, WCS has embarked on a Personalized Learning (PL) initiative. I'm proud to say that Williamson continues to be a leader in our region when it comes to personalized learning. We are often asked to send our teachers and administrative team to conferences to present on our success and experiences with PL. I see the positive results of PL with my own children's educational experiences and look forward to Williamson's bright future!

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