

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

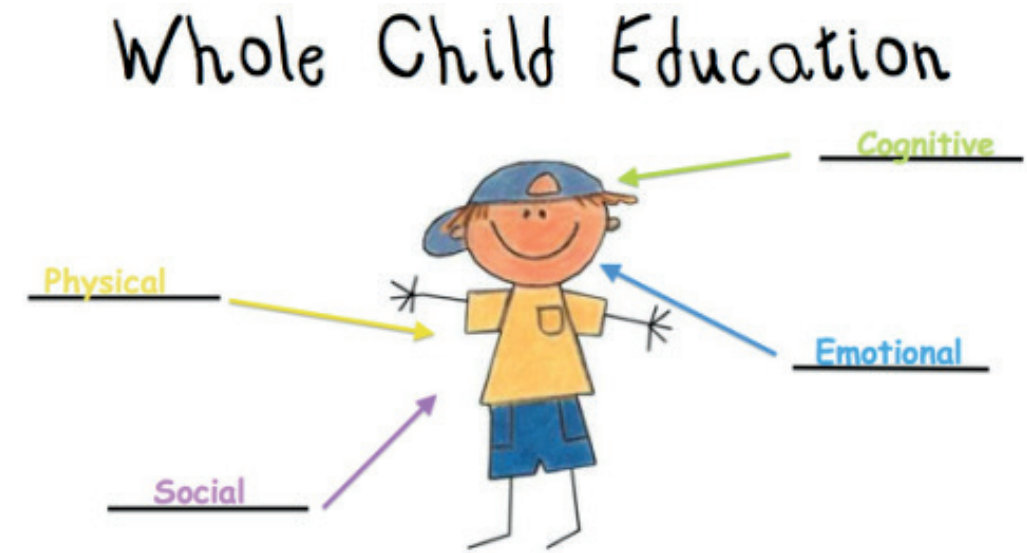
The Whole Child Approach

In Williamson, we are dedicated to a “Whole Child” approach to learning. This means we attend to the health and wellbeing of all of our students — as well as attending to their academic learning needs.

There is no doubt that healthy children learn better. The pandemic has definitely impacted our students in many ways. Academically, we see some students who are behind what we would consider typical benchmarks for their grade level or age. We have plans in place to close those gaps over time and ensure students meet age appropriate benchmarks. It is important to note that this will not happen in a week or a month. It will take some time, but those gaps will close with targeted instruction and attention.

The same is true with some social skills and development. When we think about it, we have third graders who attended school in person full time as Kindergarteners, were interrupted in March of their first grade year with fully remote instruction, attended most of their second grade year in a hybrid model (or fully remote) and are now — as third graders — back to full time in person attendance. We are seeing behaviors in some of our third graders that are more typical of much younger students. This is true throughout all of our grade levels in all of our buildings. In the same way we pay attention to providing academic support to close learning gaps, we must do the same for our students in the social and emotional realms.

Specifically, when we talk about social emotional learning we are referencing the following competencies: Self-awareness, Self-management, Responsible decision-



making, Relationship skills and Social awareness.

The district approaches all of these competencies in a developmentally appropriate way. For example, a child in Kindergarten will be able to identify main emotions and how they are feeling. A child in middle school will begin to understand that they can have multiple emotions at one time about a topic or situation. Helping our students navigate this awareness and learn to monitor and manage their emotions in appropriate ways is essential. When students are angry, it is not okay for them to throw things, but it is okay for them to express that emotion in other ways. We work with students to help them find those appropriate ways to express themselves and advocate for their needs.

We have some students who need more targeted social or emotional support. We have systems in place to recognize when this is the case and deliver those interventions. If you think your child is in need of extra support, please don't hesitate to reach

out to the building administrators to let them know.

As we navigate these gaps and barriers, it is important that we choose our words wisely. When we talk about where our children are academically and socially/emotionally - we need to be cognizant of the fact that they are exactly where they should be given the circumstances. We will continue to give them opportunities to learn, grow and develop the skills they need to be successful.

What can you do at home to help? Continue to give your children rich experiences, talk to them, ask about what they are learning, stay connected with teachers and school support staff. The number one way you can support your child's growth — both academically and socially — is to READ TOGETHER and then spend some time talking about what you read!! This is true for both young children (read to them) and older children (read alongside them).

Wherever our children are, we will meet them there and provide learning, support and guidance to move them forward. They will grow and learn and thrive. We will continue to all work together to find the best ways to be successful and ensure bright futures ahead for all of our Marauders!

From Marygrace Mazzullo



Marygrace Mazzullo
Superintendent

Greetings From The Elementary School

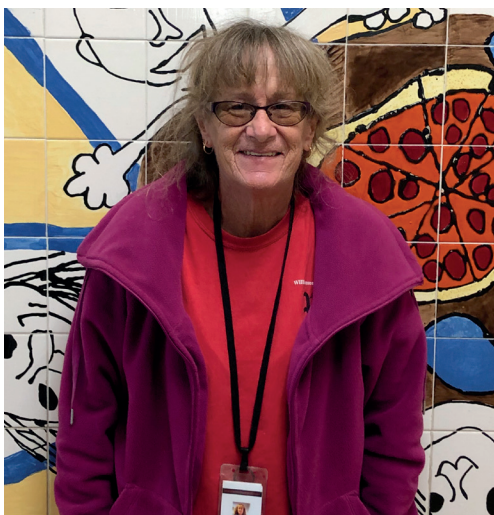
The Elementary School continues to be a very busy place as we enter the final weeks of 2021. Students and staff continue to work very hard on academic achievements. We also continue to focus on social emotional growth. Many times our growth comes through school-wide activities and building school community.

PRIDE continues to be a central theme in the building as students and staff focus on showcasing Perseverance, Responsibility, Integrity, Dignity and Excellence. Students and staff both can earn a Pride Pal when they

display one of these traits in their daily activities. Upon receiving their Pride Pal their photo is captured to add to the building Pride Wall for all to see!

We have a new member of our WES family....Tahoe Donovan! Tahoe earned his special training over the past year in order to spend time at the elementary school. Most days you can find him in the 2nd grade wing in Mr. Donovan's classroom. He is gradually getting to know the rest of the students and staff. We are very excited to have Tahoe as part of our family!

From Ellen Saxby



Miss Ellen Saxby
Elementary School Principal

Middle School News

Our students have successfully completed their first 10 weeks, and are into the second 10 weeks, of the school year. Students are engaged in learning and social development. The faculty encourages students to stay organized, give their best effort and be kind. Academic and behavioral expectations remain high for all students. We continue to incorporate 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. A reminder that report cards are available on the parent portal in Schooltool. The end of the first marking period was November 12th. 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 this modified school experience.

There are a number of clubs and activities that have occurred in the first quarter and into the second quarter of this year at the Middle School including:

- **Student Leadership Committee** – A group of 18 8th grade students mentor and support our 5th grade students, facilitating activities throughout the year.
- **Spelling Bee** – The annual spelling bee begins in December.
- **International Club and Newspaper Club** – Clubs with active membership.
- **Odyssey of the Mind** – Two teams from the Middle School are preparing to 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.
- **Running Club** – Over 25 students are participating in fitness activities two times per month.
- **Cooking Club** – Over 35 7th grade students are involved in their development of cooking skills.
- **Robotics Club** – Students are coding and programming.
- **MTSS/PBIS** – Community forums promote 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 painting and launching in October.
- **Mega Playground and Mega Arts Day** – Time for students to interact with one another as part of our MTSS Tier 1 program.
- **Modified Athletics** - Over 50 students participated in extracurricular athletics at the Middle School during the fall season. The winter sports season has begun.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences** – Middle School parents had conferences with teachers on November 18th (5th grade also on December 1st and 7th).
- **I-Ready** – Our on-line diagnostic assessment and instructional tool has begun supporting students and their unique educational needs.
- **Volunteer Club** – This group has been working to support Golisano Children's Hospital, as well as some local families in need.
- **Veteran's Day Celebration** – This in person celebration was again postponed this year. Band students did record a rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever" and "Star Spangled Banner". Our choir students recorded patriotic selections. We also presented the local American Legion with homemade baked goods and thank you cards.
- **Mission to Mars** – Our 6th grade students visited the RMSC for an engaging hands-on simulation.
- **Peter Pan** – Over 40 students in grades 5-8 participated in the performance of Peter Pan Jr.! The play took place December 3rd, 4th and 5th at the Middle School Auditorium.
- **Holiday Concerts** – The Middle School 7/8 Band and 7/8 Chorus performed on December 9th. The Middle School 5/6 Chorus, grade 5 Band and grade 6 Band performed on December 14th. Both concerts were held at the High School Auditorium.



John E. Fulmer
Middle School Principal



High School Update



At the high school we have been able to host many of our traditional events and settle into what feels like the most normal year we've had in a long time.

We had a regular fall spirit week with hallway decorating and a pep rally — our very first in the stadium. Our fall sports teams were very successful, with teams going on to sectional play. Our boys' varsity soccer team won the Class C1 Section V Championship! In cross-country, Caeleb Suwyn, Grace Wren, Hannah Governor and Eddie Tousey earned sectional patches, and seniors Grace and Caeleb qualified for the NYS Meet. Caeleb represented our school at this event.

Additionally, we had a new experience for our athletic programs with the Division 1 signing ceremonies of Andrea Hurtado-Trejo (Track, Mount St. Mary) and Reagan Mangos (Softball, St. Bonaventure). Thomas DeFisher was named to the NYS All-State Music Ensemble for voice this year, and Michael Ortiz participated in the NYS All-State Ensemble for clarinet the first weekend in December.

We awarded 44 Old English W awards to 28 students for their academic achievements at a ceremony for recipients and families this October. We are very proud of the varied talents of our students!

Other fall events we were able to safely provide our students included the Science on Seneca field trip and the Rochester Area College Fair in our foyer. On November 18, we hosted Outside the Box Day for career exploration, employment skill development, and other opportunities for students to shadow, go on college tours, and gain community service experience. This day was facilitated by our Pathways Counselor Tracy O'Hara.

We thank our families and the community for sharing such great young people with our school. We wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday.



Kate Avery
High School Principal



At **Williamson Central School District**, we keep **communication** front and center.

Over the past several years, we have added some tools to help keep our students and families as informed as possible. Here is a little guide to help you understand the main purpose for each of them. If you want to be in the loop, be sure you have access to all three communication tools! They all have easy to use phone apps or can be accessed on a computer.



School Tool is the old standard. It has been around for almost 20 years. This is where parents/guardians can go to see report card grades and attendance. You can also find your child's schedule. Schooltool contains a student's official grades. These are the grades that are used for transcripts. This is where you go to print your student's report cards.



Schoology is used on a daily basis. Each of your child's classes can be accessed within Schoology. Current assignments, grades and comments are available regularly. This is more of a day to day update on current progress, outstanding assignments and upcoming classwork. This is where you go to check in on progress—anytime, but especially at the 5 week midpoint.



ParentSquare

Parentsquare is our mass communication system. This is how we send out whole building or whole district updates. We will continue to expand our use of Parentsquare as a communication tool for clubs, athletics and extracurricular activities.

Parentsquare allows users to decide on how they want to receive the communications from school. You can get them as they are sent, or choose to receive them in a digest on a certain day/time.

****Any EMERGENCY communication ignores user preferences and is delivered immediately to your phone and email via Parentsquare.**

A Focus on Personalized Learning

Over the last several years, the Williamson Central School District has partnered with Wayne Finger Lakes-BOCES and Education Elements to transform our instructional approach. We have worked hard to create a student-centered learning model and continue to refine our practices to empower students throughout the process.

Why Personalized Learning?

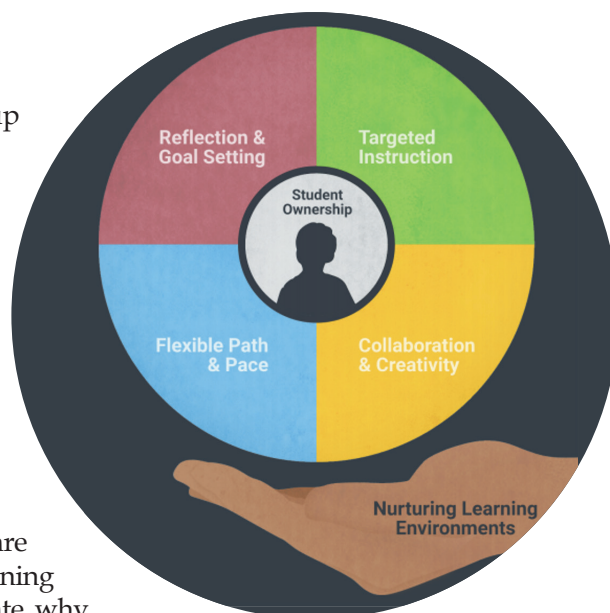
Student success is important to us. Creating a learning environment that empowers students to take ownership of their learning fosters growth. More importantly than ever before, we must meet students at their performance levels, develop their interests, and celebrate their uniqueness. The pandemic intensified the need to target instruction, build relationships, and support student ownership. Williamson educators are working fiercely to provide a rich, meaningful, and nurturing learning environment for all of our students.

The Core Four

The four components that make up personalized learning are:

- **Student Reflection & Goal Setting:** Students are provided with opportunities to reflect on what they learned and the modalities that best meet their learning needs. The goal is to build self-awareness so that students are able to set meaningful goals for future learning.
- **Targeted Instruction:** Students are given choices during the learning process and are able to articulate why they are learning specific content.
- **Flexible Path & Pace:** Students are provided opportunities to learn content through various modalities and at different paces that best meet their individual needs.
- **Collaboration & Creativity:** Throughout the learning process, students have opportunities to collaborate with peers, provide and receive specific feedback and problem solve together.

While our educators are working to implement all four components of personalized learning, we have developed department goals aligned to targeted instruction and collaboration and creativity. Our students are making connections, articulating the “why,” and engaging in collaborative discussions with their peers. We know there is work to be done given the pandemic impact, but we are so proud of the resiliency our students have shown and are excited to measure their individual growth during the 2021-2022 school year.



Personalized Learning Coaches at Williamson CSD

Elementary School:

Kelly Colling

Middle School:

Tina Palumbo

High School:

Nicole Lock



Rachel Liberatore
*Director of Curriculum,
Instruction and
Assessment*

VOTERS APPROVE WILLIAMSON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

At Williamson Central School, our district facilities are a point of pride for our community and we take seriously our commitment to providing the safest and most comfortable building environment possible for our staff and students.

In October, the Williamson Board of Education adopted a resolution to ask the community to vote on a \$12,019,927 Capital Improvement Project.

On December 14, the Williamson community voted on and ultimately approved this project:

YES: 98 votes

NO: 28 votes

About 20% of this project will be funded by our strategic reserves (\$2,625,000) and about 80% would be funded by bonds (\$9,394,927) and supported by NYS building aid.

There will be no additional tax impact or tax increase. Construction is expected to begin in 2023.

The Capital Improvement Project will generally address architectural, plumbing, mechanical and electrical needs at all district buildings. Here are some highlights of the work that is needed:

Elementary School: Kitchen renovation, room HVAC systems and controls, access and intrusion detection replacement, playground renovation.

Middle School: Auditorium renovation, corridor ceiling tiles, bathroom renovations, energy-efficient windows, room HVAC systems and controls.

High School: Replace emergency generator, renovate band and chorus rooms, upgrade energy management systems.

More information about this project is available online at **williamsoncentral.org**.

Williamson Central School



PO Box 900
Williamson, NY 14589

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID

Williamson, NY
Permit No. 52

PATRON - LETTER CARRIER ROUTE
RURAL BOXHOLDER
PO BOXHOLDER

Stay Connected

Get district highlights
and up to date information
by following us on our social
media sites!



@wscsmarauders
on Twitter



@williamson_csd
on Instagram



@williamsoncentralschool
on Facebook

williamsoncentral.org

*Unless otherwise credited, photos have been taken for and
provided by the Williamson Central School District.*



Middle School Performance