

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Great Outdoors is Great for your Health:

I know we all can attest to how much better we feel after a walk outside, or spending some time sitting in the sunshine. Above and beyond these “feelings” that getting outdoors is good for you, there is clear scientific evidence that getting outside provides benefits for our physical and emotional wellbeing. Just take a few minutes to Google the latest research and you will find lots of benefits!

Our minds and bodies relax more when we are out in nature. Our cortisol levels become lower, our muscles relax and the demands on our cardiovascular systems are less. Our attention span increases, our stress levels decline and our mood lifts. Sounds like a great thing to do for ourselves all around, doesn't it?

Given all the benefits of being outdoors, we are working on providing more opportunities and resources for our students to get outside. To that end, we are working on clearing the trails in the 50-acre wooded lot behind

the Middle and Elementary buildings.

Earlier this year, the DEC conducted an assessment of this acreage and provided a Forest Stewardship Plan for the land. We have lots of interactive ideas for utilizing the space — everything from a fairy garden and outdoor stage to scientific data collection stations and studies in dendrology and botany.

We have started the physical process of marking and clearing the trails, which is very exciting! Many thanks to our volunteers, especially Jason Beardsley, a community member and arborist who has really helped move this initiative forward. If you are interested in joining the committee, please reach out to me at mmazzullo@williamsoncentral.org and we will get you on the mailing list.

Stop out, take a walk, kick some branches to the side and help us keep the trails clear and the woods open for our students and our community's enjoyment and health perks!



• **Contact Information:** Marygrace Mazzullo • mmazzullo@williamsoncentral.org • 315.589.9661 •

Greetings From The Elementary School



Big Pumpkin Day came back to the Elementary School on Friday, October 27th! It was wonderful to have our parents and high school student volunteers here to help us celebrate our special day. A big thank you to our Big Pumpkin Day coordinators – Mrs. Anna Judd and Mrs. Alysha Peets.

The Elementary School celebrated Geography Awareness Week the week of November 13th. Classrooms learned about maps and other geographical features. In addition, Journey Bear returned to the school and visited each classroom. While visiting classrooms students were able to share information they had learned about a particular state. All this learning will be compiled into a book for the school library!

Our 4th grade Student Safety team began their duties in the month of November. The students, with Mrs. Dennie's guidance, are doing a wonderful job keeping our students safe during dismissal each day!



Miss Ellen Saxby
Elementary School Principal



Middle School News

After several retirements and departures at the end of last year, we have worked hard to grow our staff at the Middle School and we now have over ten new staff members! You may have met them at Open House and conferences, but we would like to spotlight those new to our building/district this year:

Mr. Bringley - 8th Grade Science/6th Grade Labs
Mr. France - 5th Grade ELA/SS
Mr. Farrington - 7th/8th Grade French
Mrs. DeFranco - Reading
Mr. Semmel - PE
Mrs. Kirkpatrick - 8th Grade ELA/6th Grade Reading
Mr. Lock - 7th Grade Math
Mrs. Matter - 6th Grade Counselor
Mrs. Mendez - 7th/8th Grade Spanish
Mr. Rockow - Assistant Principal
Ms. Martin - Art

In addition, we will have a new PE teacher very soon to join Mr. Semmel and we are currently in the process of hiring a new FACS teacher to fill Mrs. Del Plato's shoes. We will be sorry to see Mrs. Del Plato leave and we thank her for many wonderful years of service.

We have also worked to rebuild a strong sense of school community in the Middle School. Each Wednesday, we gather for Community Forum in the auditorium. This is a time for us to celebrate everyone's successes and accomplishments. We take time to recognize individual talents and continue to revisit our PRIDE philosophy. Our students have reported they do feel more engaged in school and closer to their peers.

We continue to explore new opportunities for our students while preserving our traditions:

The Book Fair this year generated massive interest and inspired our young readers.

Our annual Harvest Fest was a success! Mr. Holowka walked away with the trophy this year — His pumpkin launch was spectacular!

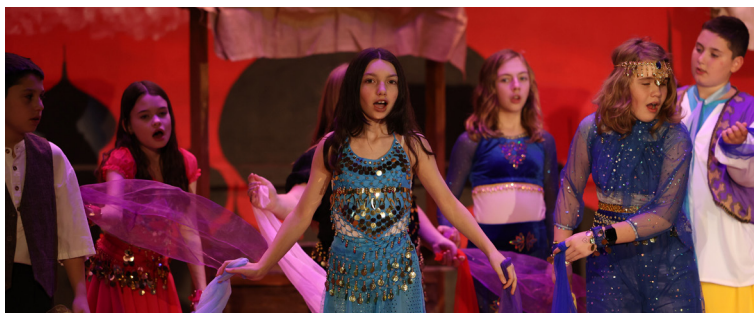
Our students were able to reflect on service and character during our Veterans Day Celebration.

Our thespians put on an amazing production of Aladdin, and performed beautifully during our Holiday Concert season.

As always, the middle years are a time of growth and exploration. It is an exciting time for both our students and our staff.



Ms. Kathryn Taylor,
Middle School Principal



Williamson Central School Annual Census

All District residents should complete this census, even if you do not currently have school-aged children.

You can complete the survey online by going to www.williamsoncentral.org, clicking the Community tab and then selecting the "WCS Census 2023-24" page, or by using the QR code below.

You can also complete the paper form on the back of this page and mail it to the District:

WCS District Office
P.O. Box 900, Williamson, NY 14589



Williamson Central School Kindergarten/UPK Parent Information Night

Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the ES Library

Please call Dawn Everhart at the District Office (315) 589-9661 to ensure you are on the mailing list.
Registration packets will be sent out on February 1, 2024.



**WILLIAMSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CENSUS FORM 2023-2024**

You may complete this online at www.williamsoncentral.org/census

FATHER/MALE GUARDIAN LIVING IN HOME

(Circle one)

MOTHER/FEMALE GUARDIAN LIVING IN HOME

(Circle one)

Name _____
First Last

Name _____
First Last

PO Box (if applicable) House Number & Street Lot Number

Town Zip Code Telephone Number

() Check here if there are no children under the age of 18 at this residence.

CHILDREN		Male/	Birth Date			Grade in
Last Name	First Name	Female	Month	Day	Year	Sept

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A DISABILITY? YES NO

IF YES, EXPLAIN BRIEFLY.

WILL YOUR CHILD BE ATTENDING A PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL SCHOOL? YES NO

IF YES, PLEASE LIST NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL STUDENT WILL ATTEND.

WILL YOUR CHILD BE HOME SCHOOLED? YES NO

ARE YOU MOVING OUT OF THE WILLIAMSON SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1st?
YES NO

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO RELOCATE WITHIN THE DISTRICT, INDICATE ADDRESS OF NEW RESIDENCE.

House Number and Street Town Zip Code

DO YOU HAVE A COMPUTER AT YOUR RESIDENCE? YES NO

IF YES, DO YOU HAVE INTERNET SERVICE AVAILABLE ON THIS COMPUTER? YES NO

High School News



As we approach 2024, we are so grateful for the time we are able to spend together as a school community. Some highlights from the fall are our Freshmen Day of Service on November 16, where our freshmen class dispersed to do service projects around the community at places like Pines of Peace, Green Angels, and the Come-Unity Center.

We were proud to host the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in October with 2023 graduate Catalina Wooldridge as a featured performer. They enjoyed being in Williamson so much they came back on December 2 for a holiday concert!

Our athletic teams played their best in the sectional rounds, and our girls Cross Country Team won the League Championship, with sophomore Hannah Governor placing 8th at the State Meet.



Dr. Kate Avery
High School Principal

Both the HS and MS have been named to the 2024 US World Best Schools List. Sixteen students are being inducted into the National Honor Society this year, and inductions will be taking place late in December for Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Rehearsals are underway for Guys and Dolls, curtains open February 29th!

High School Hallways Open for Walkers

Our High School hallways make the perfect indoor track for you to get your steps in during cold or inclement weather. Walking hours are Monday - Friday from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

The doors to the HS main entrance will be open from 6:00 - 6:15 each day. If you arrive later than 6:15, you will need to ring the doorbell and someone will let you in. Take advantage of this great opportunity and get those steps in!! 7 times around = a mile (roughly).



Curriculum and Transportation News

Academic Rigor: A Priority for All Pathways

In the ever-changing landscape of education, high school students are faced with many important choices that shape their academic journey and future endeavors. In New York State, the pathways to graduation have become more diverse; offering students individualized routes to achieve their diploma. It is our priority to offer rigorous coursework that aligns with state learning standards and student interests in order to support their postsecondary goals.

Advanced coursework challenges students to engage in higher-level thinking and problem-solving. Here at Williamson CSD, we are proud to offer an assortment of college-level classes including: 14 Gemini courses, 3 Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and 4 Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses. These courses are designed to mirror college-level material, providing students with a learning experience similar to one they may encounter in higher education. New York State emphasizes college and career readiness as a fundamental goal of high school education. Our advanced coursework aligns with this objective by providing opportunities for students to research, think critically, and hone their time-management skills; all of which are essential for success in both college and various career paths.

In a rapidly changing world, the demand for a diverse skillset is important. Providing opportunities for students to develop technical skills will support their ability to thrive in a competitive job market. Here at Williamson CSD, we continuously strive to offer our students opportunities to engage in coursework that allows students to develop their talents and strengths. We collaborate with Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES to offer students the option of enrolling in 16 different career and technical education (CTE) programs and also provide in-district coursework that enhances student knowledge of skills, such as coding and digital literacy.



Our K-12 academic program evolves to ensure our students are prepared for any postsecondary goal. It is our priority to be attentive to the needs and interests of our student population so that each learner has access to a bright future and a foundation for lifelong success.

—Rachel Liberatore, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction



Last year we safely drove over 300,000 miles!

We have had a busy start to the school year in Transportation. We have completed our first of three mandatory bus safety drills, and also a Ginna safety drill. October 16-20 was National School Bus Safety Week. Our drivers took extra time to talk with all of our students about school bus safety and what it means to be safe onboard.

We have seen an uptick in motorists passing stopped school buses. This puts our students' safety at risk. It is the law to stop for a stopped school bus. Fines start at \$250, and you can get up to 4 points on your driver's license as well. Please help us keep our students safe!

We hope you have a great holiday season!

—Chuck O'Neil, Director of Transportation

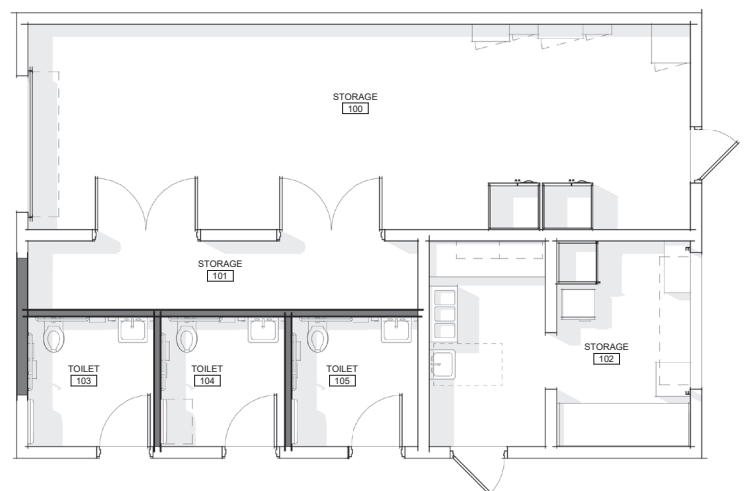
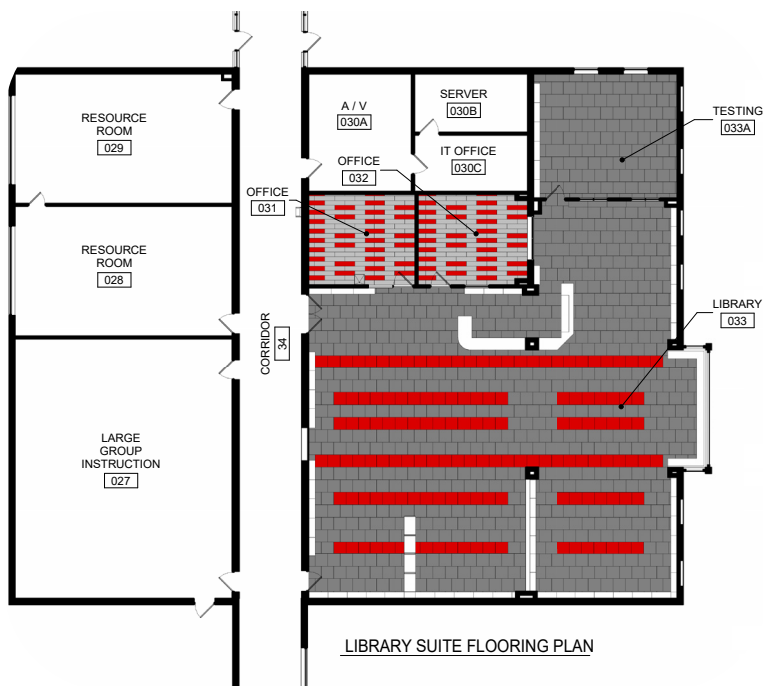
Capital Project Updates



The Capital Outlay project has been approved by the State Education Department (SED) and is currently out to bid for the replacement of the carpet flooring in the High School Library and Library Testing Room. The existing broadloom carpeting has served its useful life and the new flooring is scheduled to be carpet tiles to allow for efficient replacement as needed. The existing hard tile flooring in the two Library Offices will require abatement and subsequent installation of new resilient flooring.

The bidding process is underway with the removal and installation scheduled to occur in the spring. The ideal construction schedule is to have the work done during breaks, but due to everchanging delivery times continued coordination will need to occur with the High School schedule.

Work on the Snack Shack at the HS Stadium is underway, with bathrooms being added to the facility. Renovations on the Elementary School Cafeteria are beginning this month, and will continue throughout the school year.



PICTURE THIS!



Broadcasting Club visits News 8 WROC



Music Class at the Elementary School



Spirit Week at the Middle School



Middle School Veterans Day Celebration



Mrs. Newmyer reads to students at the Elementary School



High School Pep Rally

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WILLIAMSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

DECEMBER 2023-MARCH 2024

December

- **Let's Play Mario Kart** Wednesday, December 27th, 2023. 3:00pm-4:00pm. Need something to get out of the house? Stop in for Mario Kart and some snacks! Ages 8+, no registration required.
- **Kid's Craft, Thank You Cards** Thursday, December 28th, 2023. 2:00pm-4:00pm. Stop in to decorate thank you cards for someone that made you feel special during the holidays! No registration required, just drop-in anytime between 2:00pm-4:00pm. All ages welcome.
- **Lego Day** Friday, December 29th, 2023. 1:00pm-4:00pm. Stop by for some building fun! Come anytime between 1:00-4:00 to play with the Library's Lego's, Keva Planks, Big Blue Blocks, or Magnitiles! Ages 5+, no registration required.

January

- **Kid's Craft; Snowball Painting** Tuesday, January 9th, 2024. 4:00pm-7:00pm. Drop-in to paint with "snowballs" any time between 4:00-7:00! All ages are welcome to participate, no registration is required.

February

- **Take Your Child to the Library Day Party** Saturday, February 3rd, 2024. 10:30am-12:00pm. Have some fun at your local Library! We will have a special search and find to play, a craft, and some ice cream for breakfast available to celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day!
- **Let's Play Mario Kart** Wednesday, February 21st, 2024. 3:00pm-4:00pm. Need something to get out of the house? Stop in for Mario Kart and some snacks! Ages 8+, no registration required.
- **Kid's Craft; Q-tip Art Hearts** Thursday, February 22nd, 2024. 10:00am-12:00pm. Stop by the Library to decorate hearts with q-tip art! All ages welcome, no registration required.
- **Lego Day** Friday, February 23rd, 2024. 1:00pm-4:00pm. Stop by for some building fun! Come anytime between 1:00-4:00 to play with the Library's Lego's, Keva Planks, Big Blue Blocks, or Magnitiles! Ages 5+, no registration required.

March

- **Indoor Egg Hunt** Saturday, March 23rd, 2024. 9:30am-10:00am. Sign up to participate in this year's Indoor Egg Hunt! Ages 10 and under, registration required. Call the library to register your child or register them online at www.WilliamsonLibrary.org! Registration will open on Saturday, February 24th.

WEEKLY PROGRAMING:

- **Storytime with Ms.Kate** Every Monday, 10:30am-11:00am. Come join Ms.Kate on Mondays for Storytime! We will read some of the wonderful books in our collection, sing lots of fun songs, as well as enjoy some time with the children and caregivers in our community! For ages 5 and under, no registration required.
- **Game on: Nintendo Switch Gaming** Every Monday, 4:00pm-5:00pm. Ages 8+. Join in the fun of group gaming with friends on the Library's big screen with Nintendo Switch. The Library supplies the console, controllers, and games. Space is limited to the number of controllers we have.
- **In Stitches; a Needle Crafts Group** Every Thursday, 1:00pm-2:00pm, ages 18+. Our resident crafter Kristen offers a weekly get together for all needle art crafters to crochet, knit, quilt, embroider etc. while sharing in good conversation. Participants can also seek out advice, assistance and encouragement if they are stuck on a project. Bring your projects and join in the fun!
- **Music and Movement** Every Friday, 10:30am-11:00am. Join Ms.Kate for sing-alongs, dancing, and movement! Ages 5 and under, no registration required.

MONTHLY PROGRAMING:

- **Board Game Night** First Tuesday of the month, 5:30-6:30. Each month we will meet to play a board game from the Library's collection and have some pizza! Check the Library's website to see what game we are playing this month and to sign up! For ages 13-18. Registration is required, sign up at www.WilliamsonLibrary.org or call 315-589-2048.
- **Color Me Calm; an Adult Coloring Group** Second and Fourth Wednesdays of the month, 4:30pm-5:30pm, ages 18+. Color your stress away by joining us at 4:30pm in the large meeting room. All supplies will be provided. No registration required.
- **Grab and Go Craft Kits for Kids** Available on the Third Tuesday of the Month. Each month we pack a new craft for participants to take home. To sign up for a kit or to see what this month's craft is, please call the Library at 315-589-2048. Registration is required due to limited supplies.
- **PJ Storytime** Third Tuesday of the month 6:30pm-7:00pm. A new program! Ms.Kate will read stories, lead sing alongs, and help friends get their wiggles out before bedtime. Feel free to come in your PJs, bring your favorite stuffed animal, or bring your favorite blanket!
- **DIY Crafts with Jen** Third Wednesday of the month 6:30pm-7:30pm. Our resident crafter Jen will guide you through the featured monthly craft. Registration is required. Call the Library at 315-589-2048 to find out the details for this month's craft or visit our website at www.WilliamsonLibrary.org There is no registration cost, however be sure to check in with the Library to see if any crafter provided materials are required.

Williamson Central School



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Williamson, NY 14589

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Organization
U.S. Postage

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Williamson, NY
Permit No. 52

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