



# District Newsletter

Wheatland-Chili Central School District

Fall 2021

## *Welcome Back to Our Students and Staff*



## What School looks like this year



### Inside this issue:

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)
- Senior Nights
- Welcome to the District
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- New School Year: New District Logo and Slogan

# A message from the Superintendent



Dear Wheatland-Chili families,  
We are excited to have our students back in our buildings for the start of a successful year! In planning for this year, we put plans in place to ensure a safe and healthy return to full in person learning with measures to reduce the risk of illness. We are a couple of months into the school year and are encouraged by the enthusiasm and positive attitudes we are seeing

in our buildings.

As we emerge from COVID-19, we know and appreciate the challenges we all are still facing. We are committed to giving students the best opportunity to learn through supporting their social emotional needs and providing high-quality instruction. We are instituting new programs to ensure all students find success at Wheatland-Chili.

It is great to see so many things returning to normal in-person experiences at school. We are able to have sports and extracurricular activities with spectators.

We are starting to hold field trips. We are preparing for Drama

Club performances at both T. J. Connor and the Middle/High School. And, we are starting to welcome parents and volunteers back into the classrooms. We even held Homecoming, Halloween and other spirit-themed activities! We hope that we can continue to see more traditions and practices resume as we travel through the months ahead.

Thank you to all of our students, families, teachers and staff for your patience and resilience as we navigate this truly unique time in our lives at school and in our community.

We are looking forward to great things ahead for our students as the school year continues to unfold.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to reach out to your teachers, principals, assistant principals or myself. We would be glad to assist you.

Lynda Quick, Esq.  
Superintendent of Schools

## T. J. Connor Halloween Parade

For the first time in two years, the Halloween parade at T. J. Connor Elementary School took to the halls on October 29. Students, teachers, staff and administrators – many also dressed in costumes - looked on with smiles, cheers and applause at the kindergarteners' costumes. The morning event gave way to instruction on a day that was capped off with Halloween celebrations in each class before dismissal.



## SAVE THE DATE:

Please join Wheatland-Chili Superintendent Lynda Quick for the next "Coffee with the Superintendent" from 8 a.m.-9 a.m. on Tuesday November 30, 2021 at Artisan Coffeehouse of Scottsville, 2 Main Street, Scottsville.

Come sip some coffee and share in conversation about the district.

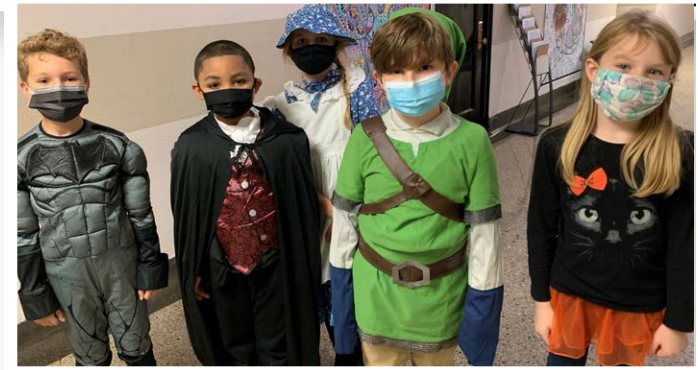


## COVID-19 Update

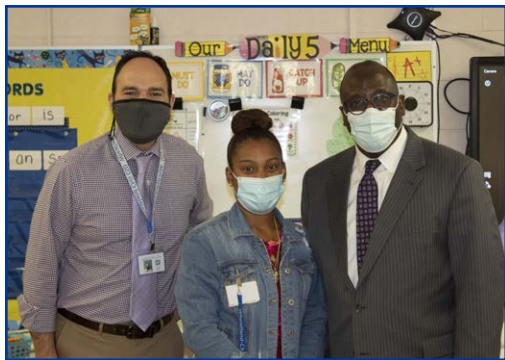
We're monitoring and managing positive COVID cases as they arise. We report our data to New York State. You can view our Wheatland-Chili Central School District COVID test data via the New York State COVID Report Card's dashboard,

<https://schoolcovidreportcard.health.ny.gov/#/districtData?bedsCodeId=262001>

The link is also posted on our district website from the page titled, "Positive COVID-19 Cases at WCCSD"



## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)



Dr. Washington is pictured here with Elementary School Teacher Aide LaVonda Wooden and Elementary Principal Dr. Dan Murray.

and is the pastor of Seneca United Methodist Church in Irondequoit. He visited our schools to meet students, teachers and staff on October 5. Speaking at the Board of Education meeting the night before his visit, Dr. Washington explained his approach as engaging district students and families and engendering an environment of belonging and, in his words, “creating a common ground of oneness.”

The district’s first Diversity Equity and Inclusion Core Committee meeting

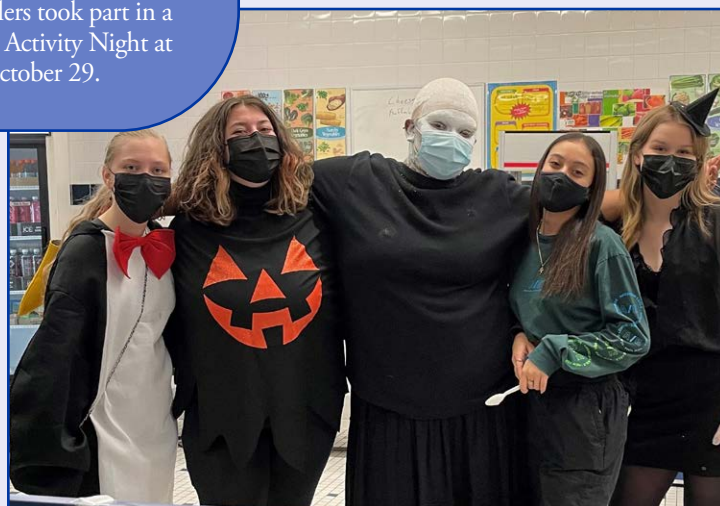
The Board of Education has named Dr. Marlowe Washington as facilitator of the school district’s Diversity, Equity & Inclusion initiative. Dr. Washington is the Senior Diversity Officer at St. John Fisher College and has consulted on DEI initiatives at Brighton Central Schools. Before that, Dr. Washington served as an Adjunct Professor of Religion & Philosophy at Roberts Wesleyan College

was held October 27. A cross-section of our community was represented - students, parents, teachers, staff, administration and school board.



### Middle School Activity Night

Our Middle Schoolers took part in a Halloween-themed Activity Night at school on October 29.



## Wheatland-Chili staff SPOTLIGHT

### Meet our two new Assistant Principals!

#### Meet Ms. Kate Orem, Elementary School Assistant Principal



Ms. Orem grew up in Rochester's 19th Ward in the southwest section of the city and graduated from Wilson Magnet High School. After graduating from Earlham College in Indiana with a degree in psychology and music, she first worked as manager of a Pennsylvania farm stand.

It wasn't long before she found her way into a school, working as a substitute paraprofessional. When she started

writing lesson plans in her dreams, she realized her calling to become a teacher. Ms. Orem enrolled at the University of Rochester where she earned first her Master's Degree in Elementary Education and later her Administrative Certification.

She taught in several schools in the city school district for more than two decades before coming to Wheatland-Chili in July as the Assistant Principal at T. J. Connor Elementary School.

Of her new role, Ms. Orem said she "comes home from work smiling every day, because of the caring community coming together to educate kids" at Wheatland-Chili.

Her love for educating young people runs deep in her family tree. She's a fourth-generation educator! And it's not likely to stop there. Of her three children, her daughter has already indicated she wants to be a kindergarten teacher.

The Orem household is also home to a black cat named Ash. They live in Brighton.

Outside of school, you can find Ms. Orem exercising her love of singing in various choral activities. She has sung in the supporting vocal groups in local performances by Bobby McFerrin and noted opera singer Kathleen Battle. She also enjoys hiking and meals made with fresh food grown by local farmers.

When asked what she gets out of her career, she said, "The joy of knowing I'm part of moving the world forward" by educating children.

Building upon the District's strong sense of community is clearly a passion for Ms. Orem.

Her favorite moments so far have been getting to know the students at T. J. Connor.

When asked what she hopes to accomplish, she responds, "Each kid gets the best education they could possibly get."

And she added, "I never met a parent who didn't want the best for their child."

Welcome to Wheatland-Chili, Ms. Orem!

#### Meet Mr. Matthew Hennard, Middle/High School Assistant Principal



Growing up on a farm in Perry, Mr. Hennard was the only child in his household to graduate from high school.

In speaking of students who may struggle with school, his advice, based on seeing his own brothers struggle, is "Your past doesn't dictate your future."

The 9/11 terror attacks motivated him to enlist in the U.S. Air Force for four years. His service included a tour in Iraq.

When his time in the Air Force wrapped up, he went to SUNY Brockport and became a high school social studies teacher. He was hired to teach in the Holley Central School District starting with the 2010-2011 school year. In his 10 years there, he completed his administrative certification – also at SUNY Brockport. He started in his new position as Assistant Principal at Wheatland-Chili Middle/High School on July 1.

"I'm here to support the kids and support the teachers...and make everybody else's job easier," said Mr. Hennard of his role.

He enjoys getting to be in the hallways and classrooms working with kids and teachers.

When asked what he hopes to accomplish, Mr. Hennard added, "I hope to help continue making Wheatland-Chili the great place it is to work and learn, and get a great education."

His satisfaction comes from hearing former students speak of their successes.

Outside of school, Mr. Hennard likes to play basketball, softball, tennis, and video games. He and his family also enjoy camping.

He thinks you might be surprised to know that he hunts and enjoys life on a farm while having a lifelong interest in fashion.

At home, he and his wife are parents to two sons, ages 6 and 9. The family has several pets: two golden doodles, two cats and a snake! The Hennards are excited about their eventual move from Brockport into a new home under construction in Chili in a neighboring district.

His favorite moment so far came while walking into a girls' soccer game. The student section screamed his name and wanted him to sit with them in the bleachers. He said that gesture made him feel "welcomed, safe and comfortable."

Welcome to Wheatland-Chili, Mr. Hennard!

We wish Ms. Orem and Mr. Hennard much success in their new positions!

## Honoring Our Staff Members for their Service

Congratulations to our Wheatland-Chili staff members who are celebrating milestones with the District. Each of them received a pin based on their years of service on September 7. We thank you for your dedication and service to our students, families and community!

### 35 Years

Val Savage – *Teacher*

### 30 Years

Tim Day – *Teacher*

### 25 Years

Pauline Emelson – *Teacher*

Jill Farrell – *Teacher*

Julie Robinson – *Teacher Aide*

### 20 Years

Christine Fisher - *Teacher*

JoAnne Iovoli – *Teacher*

Scott Melville – *Teacher*

### 15 Years

Erin Ayers – *Teacher*

Elaine Bagley – *Teacher*

Tammy Brooks – *Elementary Food Service Manager*

Steve Conklin – *Teacher*

Cindy Kwiatkowski – *Transportation Director*

Kim LaCelle – *Teacher*

Scott Smith – *Bus Driver*

### 10 Years

Mike Giumento – *Bus Driver*



## Board of Education Recognition Week

The District observed New York State School Board Recognition Week October 18-22. Our students made “thank you” artwork which was presented to each member of our Wheatland-Chili Board of Education at the beginning of their October 18 meeting. We thank our board members for their dedication, service and support.



### Board Priorities

1. Support **curricular strategies** that ensure **equity for all students** and create the foundation for life skills and career aspirations.
2. Support an environment of **continuous growth and improvement for all staff.**
3. Ensure the intersections of inclusion, cultural responsiveness and social and emotional learning are defined and actively supported across the District.
4. Define the strategy that will sustain the District as a leader in digital transformation.
5. Define sustainable budgeting solutions that maintain and enhance our present facilities and programs.
6. Provide **opportunities for stakeholder involvement** through effective communication and engagement strategies.

## Welcome to the District

We welcome new staff members who have joined the District since January:

**John Bucci**, Personnel Clerk

**Ed Buttaccio**, Communications Specialist (Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES)

**Kiersten Cometa**, Special Education Teacher, Elementary School

**Matthew Cusimano**, Director of Food Service

**Amanda Eggleton**, Social Worker, Middle/High School

**Sheryl Guidice**, Director of Transportation

**Matthew Hennard**, Assistant Principal, Middle/High School

**Emily Hess**, Food Service Helper, Elementary School

**Taryn Johnston**, Office Clerk, Middle/High School

**Robert Lowell**, Director of Technology

**Laura Michaels**, Bus Driver

**Makayla Mitchell**, Teacher Aide, Middle/High School

**Anna Muchard**, Teacher Aide, Elementary School

**Kate Orem**, Assistant Principal, Elementary School

**Shelly Palmer**, Nurse, Middle/High School

**Christina Petrie**, Cook, Elementary School

**David Phillips**, Student Behavioral Assistant, Middle/High School

**Julie Seide**, Nurse, Elementary School

**Nicole Taggart**, Teacher Aide, Elementary School

**Maureen Terena**, Bus Driver

**LaVonda Wooden**, Teacher Aide, Elementary School

**Geoff Wehle**, Bus Driver

# Spirit Week 2021 at Wheatland-Chili

Wheatland-Chili celebrated Spirit Week each weekday leading up to Homecoming 2021!

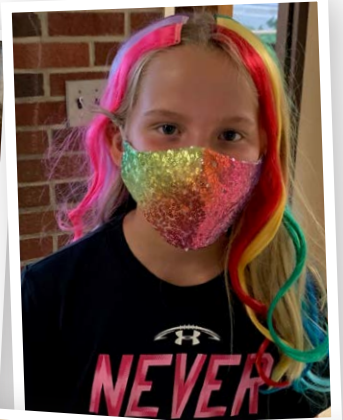
Students and staff showed their Wildcat school spirit in so many fun ways: Blue and White Day, Twin Day, Jersey Day, Crazy Hair Day,

Class Color Day, and Hat Day. Classes decorated their homecoming floats with a holiday theme! The Homecoming parade ended with a celebration at the high school with cider and donuts!

## Middle/High School



## T. J. Connor Elementary



## First Field Trip since March 2020

Our kindergartners visited Stokoe Farms on October 15. It was the first field trip taken by our students since the beginning of the pandemic in the spring of 2020! The students enjoyed the attractions and animals. Each went home with a pumpkin.



## Social Media Safety presentations

In partnership with the W-C PTA, our schools this week hosted a Parent Information Night and student assemblies on Social Media Safety with Robert Hackenson, Jr. A hypnotist and magician, Hackenson's presentation touched on the pros/cons of popular apps, technology addiction and different ways parents can talk to their children about safe use of technology and apps. You can watch the presentation anytime through November 19 at this link:

<https://dynamicinfluence.com/parenting-in-a-digital-age-presentation-for-wheatland-chili/>

Password is Wheatland!



## Taking the Stage

T. J. Connor Drama Club has been practicing after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays for several weeks leading up to its November 18 performance of "The Day the Crayons Quit" at the Middle/High School auditorium.

The High School Drama Club announced this spring's Musical will be "The Addams Family." The curtain goes up on March 24, 25, and 26, 2022.

## Senior Nights

Several of our Seniors from the Class of 2022 have been recognized in their fall sports including members of our Boys and Girls Varsity Soccer and Cross Country Teams.



Varsity Soccer Senior Girls: Ava and Angelina



Cross Country Senior Girls: Just'Hana and Alannah



Varsity Soccer Senior Boys: Josh, Andrew, Brendan, Tyler, Coach Varin, Aaron, Jeff, John and Dane.



Cross Country Senior Boys: Connor, Garrett and Joey

The Day the Crayons Quit  
A Musical

**Wheatland-Chili Central School District**  
13 Beckwith Avenue  
Scottsville, NY 14546  
585.889.6247

**Board of Education (2021-2022)**

James Musshafen, President  
Shanna Fraser, Vice President  
Gregory Berl  
Cindy Dawson  
Beth Nolan  
Courtney Panek  
Kim Snyder

**Superintendent**

Lynda Quick, Esq.

**Graphic Design**

Shannon Sweeney

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## Community

Wheatland-Chili students continue their important volunteer work in the community.

On October 15, Leadership Asset Training (LAT) members took part in the first Trunk or Treat event. Students decorated their advisor Mrs. Wilson's car and passed out treats to elementary students.

On October 24, several National Honor Society and LAT members and their advisors Mrs. O'Neil and Mrs. Wilson took part in the Halloween-themed Al Sigl Community Walk at Eastview Mall. The walk celebrates inclusion and abilities and raises money to support more than 55,000 children and adults with special needs in our area who are served each year by Al Sigl member agencies.



## New School Year: New District Logo and Slogan

Wheatland-Chili's new logo pays homage to the historical agricultural character of the district while looking to the future and staking out a claim for continued growth. The sprigs of wheat represent the history and traditions of our community, while the circular nature of the stems represent the inclusive, tight-knit nature of the community. The survey results made very clear that being a close-knit community is one of our most cherished values. We wanted not only to allude to that inclusivity but also to the inclusivity that we are building when it comes to equal and equitable treatment of all members of our community.



The new slogan is "Rooted in Community. Dedicated to Success."

It is the strong sense of community that prepares our students for their future success, and as a district, we are dedicated to empowering their success, which can be defined in many different ways.

## Stay Connected

Check out our district website for the latest updates:

<https://www.wheatland.k12.ny.us/>

And be sure to follow Wheatland-Chili on Social Media:



@wheatlandChiliCSD



@WCCSD



@tjcelementary