

Welcome Back to Our Students and Staff

Wheatland-Chili staff members participated in Conference Days and an Opening Day for Staff before the first day of instruction for students. New staff members attended two additional half-day trainings prior to the Conference Days.

At Opening Day for Staff, BOE President James Musshafen said, "It is an honor to stand in front of so many people that have the opportunity to educate and affect the lives of today and tomorrow. All of you create memories that will live on for years in the children you interact with day in and day out. Now more than ever, our school community is depending on you."

The first full day of instruction for all students was September 10. Welcome back students and staff.



A message from the Superintendent



Dear Wheatland-Chili Community;

We have had a successful opening of our school year despite the many challenges we faced this year. Our planning and preparation was thorough, and our students and staff have implemented our plan with integrity. We are engaging students...delivering instruction...andsupportingthesocialandemotional needs of our students and staff, in spite of the challenges we face.

We plan to continue in our current hybrid model at both buildings for the remainder of the first marking period. We will reassess our model as we approach the second marking period to determine whether we need

to make any adjustments. As you can imagine, the situation is very fluid and we need to continually review the guidance and circumstances to plan for future periods. If you are interested in changing the educational delivery model for your child, please contact your Building Principal to discuss a plan for making that change.

We are finishing Phase III of our 2017 Capital Project. The buildings look terrific! We are appreciative of all of the support that you have shown for our project. It has allowed us to not only maintain the infrastructure of our buildings but it also has allowed us to make much needed upgrades to support safety, health and instruction.

Some highlights of our most recent efforts at T. J. Connor include entrance improvements and new doors, new boilers, PA system replacements, bathroom and locker room improvements, recharging stations for electric cars, and new fire alarms. At the MS/HS, improvements included new boilers, new fire alarms, gym and pool improvements, new windows in the library, paving and sidewalk improvements, new PA system improvements, and bus garage improvements.

We appreciate the efforts of our staff, students and families as we navigate these uncharted waters. If you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to reach out to your teachers, principals or myself, and we would be glad to assist you.

Lynda Quick, Esq.
Superintendent of Schools





Spirit Week at Wheatland-Chili

Spirit Week was held the week of September 28. Monday was Jersey Day; Tuesday was Twin Day; Wednesday was Class Color Day; Thursday was Pajama Day and Friday was Blue and White Day to celebrate the Wheatland-Chili Wildcat community. Welcome back everyone.

Honoring Our Staff Members for their Service

Congratulations to our staff members celebrating milestones. We thank you for your service to our students, families, and community. The staff members each received a pin based on their years of services.

30 Years

Cindy Rhoda - WCHS Main Office - Secretary

20 Years

Linda Giroud - Elementary Teacher

Pam Merritt - Elementary Teacher

Tracy Pasquantonio - T. J. Connor Social Worker

Barb Horr - Bus Driver

Amy Hicks - Middle School/High School Teacher

15 Years

Laura Hogan - Teacher Aide

Sheryl Little - Teacher

Julianne Greene - Elementary Teacher

Tony Nicosia - Custodian

Kristen Snyder - Middle School Teacher

10 Years

Tara Torrance - Food Service

Deb Yates - Elementary Teacher



10 Years



15 Years



20 Years

Welcome to the District

We welcome new staff members to the District and also to those who started mid-year last school year.

Tracy Allen, Cleaner

Colleen Baliva, Food Service Helper

Kaitlin Butler, Earth Science Teacher

Sara Donals, Teacher Aide

Haydee Espada, Nurse MS/HS

Steve Farrell, Facilities and Transportation Assistant

Elizabeth Foote, French Teacher

Andrew Kerwin, Social Studies Teacher

Julia McIntyre, Teacher Aide

Jammie Morris, Transportation and Facilities Assistant

Nicole Okawa, Teacher Aide T. J. Connor

Samantha Pagliei, Physical Education and Health Teacher

Christie Petrie, Cook

Claire Post, Teacher Aide

Kathryn Prince, Elementary Teacher

Reginald Rollo, Cleaner

Julie Seide, Nurse T.J. Connor

Mark Stocking, Personnel Clerk

Alexis Waite, Kindergarten Teacher



Reading to Students

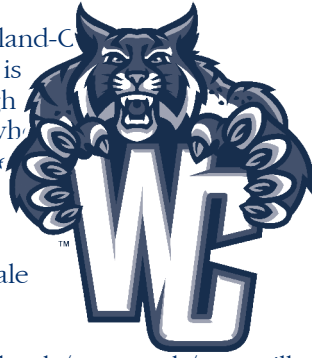


*SRO Lauren Udicious reads to all kindergarten, first- and second-graders at T. J. Connor Elementary at the beginning of the year so students understand why she is at school. Here, Officer Udicious reads the picture book, *Police in Our Schools* by Deputy Becky Coyle to Mrs. Merritt's class.*

A NEW YEAR, A NEW WILDCAT

Have you seen the new Wheatland-Chili Wildcat logo? This fierce feline is spreading Wildcat pride through community. Thank you to all who served on the design committee.

Those interested in purchasing WC gear, can visit:
<https://wc20-2.itemorder.com/sale> by November 1
or, visit:
http://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/new_york/scottsville/wheatland-chili-high-school anytime to place your order.



Automated Mass Notification System

The District uses a system that will send a voicemail message to multiple numbers: parents' cells, work, home; and your family emergency contact while the message is also emailed. There are different levels: emergency notification goes to all numbers and contacts you provide and the Communication/Informational messages go to the primary contact number or email. Be sure to provide your correct numbers and email addresses each year by updating your information using the Student/Parent Contact Information form which is returned to your child's school building.

A test of the Emergency Notification System is done each school year.

Parent Portal and SchoolTool

The Parent Portal is one of many ways to keep in touch with your child's academic progress, and is available to all parents in the Wheatland-Chili School District, regardless of your child's grade level.

The Parent Portal is a component of the SchoolTool student database program, and allows parents and legal guardians to access their child's class schedule, grades, assignments, attendance record, discipline history, and contact information. Different information is available for different grades.

Registration for a Parent Portal account requires a valid email account, a completed Parent Portal Registration Form, and a photo ID upon submission of registration at the Main Office of your school. Registration forms are available in the Main Office, and by download on the website. You can access the Parent Portal information on our website at www.wheatland.k12.ny.us/domain/281.



Food Services Information for Parents and Guardians

The USDA FREE Breakfast and Lunch meals will be extended until June 30, 2021.

However, it is still important that families who qualify for the Free and Reduced meals still apply so we have your application on file. Apply using the Free and Reduced application mailed in the District calendar. A copy is also available on the website at: http://bit.ly/WCFree_Reduced_Form



Food Service Heroes Work Here

Thank you to our Food Service staff members Tammy Snyder, Tammy Brooks, Tara Torrance and Colleen Baliva who worked this summer to make breakfast and lunches for our students. Together they made and served 4,476 meals. Not all heroes wear capes, some wear aprons. Thank you to our facilities and transportation department members for their support and assistance during meal pick-up.

WC Remote Meal distribution

In response to feedback from our families, the Wheatland-Chili Central School District is striving to improve access to school meals on days of remote learning. Starting Friday, October 23, hybrid students in grades 8, 10, and 12 will receive three breakfasts and lunches every Friday as they leave the building. Starting Tuesday, October 27, all T.J. Connor and 6th-grade students will receive meals for remote Wednesday as they leave the building. Grades 7, 9, and 11 will receive three breakfasts and lunches at the end of every Tuesday.

"This new distribution model is designed to ensure that every student in our district has access to healthy food, every school day, regardless of whether they are learning in school or at home," said Food Service Manager Dana Boldt. "This program is of no cost to families as it is included in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Free Meal Program which has been extended to the end of the school year."

Fully-remote students can still order meals five days a week. To accommodate family schedules, pick-ups can now be scheduled to include multiple day's meals at a time. Families of hybrid students who wish to opt out of the Remote Meals Distribution Program can call 585-889-6237 (T.J. Connor) or 585-889-6251 (MS/HS).

Wheatland-Chili staff SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight on Stephanie Willard

Stephanie Willard is in the T. J. Connor Main Office this school year. She provides support to teachers as needed, answers parent questions, and covers lunch and recess. Prior to September, she was the welcome window security officer at T. J. Connor. She began in January of 2019.



Willard's favorite thing about her job is getting to know her students. "I make it a priority to learn all the students' names. I want the students to know they are seen and cared for. Hearing a student ask, 'How did you know my name?' always makes me smile."

Willard grew up in Henrietta and graduated from Rush-Henrietta in 2002. Her father was a school principal, so working in a school office came naturally. "I've always loved working with children, but never had a desire to be a teacher. I prefer to be behind the scenes and assist by supporting the principal, teachers, and families."

Prior to working for Wheatland-Chili, Willard was a stay at home mom for eight years and spent a year working for the Town of Henrietta.

Outside of work, Willard spends time with family and friends. She has five siblings who live locally and her four children are in 4th, 6th, 8th, and 9th grades. She enjoys watching her children participate in sports and other activities and having movie night out or at home. "In the summer time, I like going to Red Wings games, festivals and fairs, and taking my kids hiking at local parks."

"I'm so proud of how the WC community has come together during this pandemic. We were all thrown a curve ball in mid-March when we were shut down and I was able to witness the behind the scenes of all the hard work it took to get materials and work home to students. Everyone came together, without question, to make sure the students were prepared during these strange times."

Students to Study Our Local Watershed

Biodiversity and Environmental Science students in Kimberly LaCelle's classes are working on a year-long project to investigate the health of a stream's ecosystem and to learn what affects the health of an ecosystem by studying local stream sites, including Oatka Creek and Black Creek.

"We will ask the students what should we do with the data?" said LaCelle. "Should we create educational material or work on remediation projects? Student interests will drive the projects we undertake."

In August, LaCelle took part in a hands-on grant-funded four-day workshop with 20 local teachers working together remotely and in Canawaugus Park in Scottsville. Her participation in the workshop provides Wheatland-Chili students with a learner-center meaningful watershed experience this school year, as well as funds for equipment. This is a new offering for teachers and students through St. John Fisher College. It is aligned with the Next Generation of Learning Standards in science. LaCelle is working on curriculum design with the grant leaders.

"Students will be connected to the environment directly through field experience," said Christopher Widmaier, educator and project collaborator, at St. John Fisher College. "The focus for students is a deeper investigation of an issue, collecting data, and doing something about it." All the spring field trip work by student and teachers at the local stream sites will be conducted with CDC guidelines in place.

The grant at St. John Fisher also provides on-going professional development for the teachers; an expert available to speak to students; and an opportunity at the end of the study for teachers to present an exhibition poster on what their class accomplished.

LaCelle is currently working with students to identify water organisms and to develop methods for analyzing water and stream habitat quality. They hope to send water samples in for DNA testing, through Cornell University's Citizen Science Fish Tracker Project, to look at what species might be in the stream sites.



Students work on identification of water organisms.

What does school look like, now?

Education has transformed more in the last six months than in the previous century. After months of planning, Wheatland-Chili welcomed back students, in-person and online, on September 10. But what does learning really look like in an era of increased health and safety regulations, hybrid schedules, and remote learning? Teacher Center Director Cara Montrois offered insight into the day-to-day routines of Wheatland-Chili students and teachers.

The goal of all Wheatland-Chili teaching staff is to focus on building relationships and community first. "One of the unintended positive consequences of the smaller class sizes is the increased sense of community," said Montrois. "Whether the students are in the classroom or connected through a virtual meeting on the interactive board, they are focusing first on connections and building friendships."

In-person elementary students, PreK through grade 6, attend school four days per week. Lunch is eaten in the classroom and, weather permitting, recess is outside. During the four days which students are in the classroom and online, teachers provide remote students a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. The younger remote students have screen breaks throughout the day when they can work independently, get some movement time, or eat lunch—much in the way teachers break up the day for in-person students.



The Middle/High School has adopted a rotating hybrid schedule of even and odd classes. Grades 7, 9, and 11 attend Monday and Tuesday. Grades 8, 10,

and 12 attend Thursday and Friday. As in the elementary school, remote students attend classes via virtual meetings using Zoom

or Schoology Conferences. Additionally, there is a remote cohort within the grade levels. Not all classrooms can accommodate the number of students in the building, so there are in-building students joining the classroom via virtual meetings.

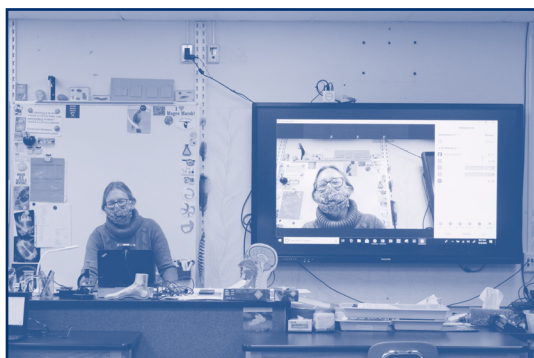


Students at the Middle/High School are still making music. Band and chorus take place in the auditorium where they can be spaced according to state guidelines. The remote students sing or play along from home via Zoom.

Wednesday is remote for all students. Staff is continually trying new ideas to keep students engaged in learning and in the classroom community. "We don't want students to feel isolated," said Montrois. "As we move through this year we will slowly introduce new elements to keep things fresh and engaging."

One of the in-person elements being introduced at the Middle/High School sounds pretty ordinary. Starting with the seniors, students are being assigned lockers. "It seems like a small thing, but the students have proven they can adapt to mask-wearing and social distancing," said Montrois. "They will only be allowed to visit their lockers at set times but with the cold weather coming, it is important that they have a space to store their coats and belongings."

"Over the past few years, Wheatland-Chili faculty and staff have taken part in professional development trainings in social emotional learning and culturally responsive education," said Montrois. "In this time of significant upheaval, those are valuable tools which our staff can leverage to do more for our students, and do it better."



Board of Education Recognition Week

The New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) recognizes October 19 – 23, 2020 as School Board Recognition Week. Wheatland-Chili CSD joined all public school districts across the state to celebrate School Board Recognition Week to honor local board members for their commitment to Wheatland-Chili and its children.

We thank our Board of Education members for their dedication and service. The members serving our district and their years of service are as follows: James Musshafen, President, 18 years; Shanna Fraser, Vice President, six years; Gregory Berl, four years; Cindy Dawson, two years; Beth Nolan, three years; Courtney Panek, six years; and Kim Snyder, 14 years.

Wheatland-Chili Central School District
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Board of Education (2019-2020)

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

Superintendent

Lynda Quick, Esq.

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New School Nurses

Please join us in welcoming new T.J. Connor School Nurse Julie Seide and new MS/HS Nurse Haydee Espada.

Seide comes to us from the Rochester City School District. She is also a community health nurse. "I am looking forward to getting to know everyone," said Seide. "I'm excited to work with the students, teachers, and community at Wheatland-Chili."

Espada has been at BOCES for two and a half years and also worked at Unity Health. "I'm very excited to be at Wheatland-Chili," said Espada.



Haydee Espada



Julie Seide

New IT Technical Support email help-line

Wheatland-Chili Central School District is committed to ensuring access to equitable education for all remote and hybrid students. To support this commitment, the District is proud to launch a dedicated IT Technical Support email help-line.

The goal of this help-line is to provide students and care-givers with technical support in a shorter timeframe than a classroom teacher can provide. Additionally, the help-line will support our classroom teachers by helping students stay connected throughout lessons. Students and caregivers can email any technical questions to WCHelpdesk@wheatland.k12.ny.us at any time. Questions will be answered promptly during regular school hours.



WCCSD Calendar Updates:

Friday, October 30:
Full-day instruction for all students

Thursday, December 10:
Full-day instruction for all students

Friday, December 11*:
PreK-12 Early Dismissal
*No change from original calendar

Monday, December 14:
No school for all students