

Student/Parent Handbook 2024-2025



T. J. Connor Elementary School
13 Beckwith Avenue
Scottsville, New York 14546
889-6236

District Calendar 2024-25

WHEATLAND-CHILI CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

		Number of School Days in Attendance	
		Faculty	Student
<u>AUGUST</u>		2	0
Monday	26 New Employee Orientation Only (1/2 day)		
Wednesday	28 Conference Day* - No School for PreK-12 Students (Faculty Only)		
Thursday	29 Conference Day* - No School for PreK-12 Students (Faculty Only)		
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>		20	19
Monday	2 Labor Day, No School for PreK-12 Students		
Tuesday	3 Faculty & Staff Opening Day* - No School for PreK-12 Students		
Wednesday	4 School Opens, Full Day Session - All Students		
<u>OCTOBER</u>		22	21
Friday	11 Conference Day* - No School for PreK-12 Students		
Monday	14 Columbus Day, No School for PreK-12 Students		
<u>NOVEMBER</u>		17	17
Monday	11 Veterans Day Observed, No School for PreK-12 Students		
Mon.-Tues.	25-26 Elementary Early Dismissal, 11:20 a.m. / Grade 6 Early Dismissal 10:40 a.m. (Parent/Teacher Conference)		
Wed.-Fri.	27-29 Thanksgiving Recess, No School for PreK-12 Students		
<u>DECEMBER</u>		15	15
Friday	6 Elementary Early Dismissal, 11:20 a.m. / Grade 6 Early Dismissal 10:40 a.m. (Parent/Teacher Conference)		
Mon.-Tues.	23-31 Holiday Recess, No School for PreK-12 Students		
<u>JANUARY</u>		18	18
Wed.-Fri.	1-3 Holiday Recess, No School for PreK-12 Students		
Monday	6 School Reopens		
Monday	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No School for PreK-12 Students		
Tues.-Fri.	21-24 Regents & Local Examinations (school in session)		
Wednesday	29 Lunar New Year, No School for PreK-12 Students		
<u>FEBRUARY</u>		15	15
Monday	17 Presidents' Day, No School for PreK-12 Students		
Tues.-Friday	18-21 Mid-Winter Recess, No School for PreK-12 Students		
<u>MARCH</u>		21	20
Friday	21 Conference Day* - No School for PreK-12 Students		
<u>APRIL</u>		17	17
Mon.-Fri.	14-18 Spring Recess, No School for PreK-12 Students		
<u>MAY</u>		21	21
Friday	23 Elementary Early Dismissal, 11:20 a.m. / Grade 6 Early Dismissal 10:40 a.m. (Parent/Teacher Conference)		
Monday	26 Memorial Day Recess, No School for PreK-12 Students		
<u>JUNE</u>		19	18
Wednesday	4 Regents Examinations (school in session for PreK-12)		
Tuesday	10 Regents Examinations (school in session for PreK-12)		
Tues.-Wed.	17-18 Regents Examinations (school in session for PreK-6)		
Thursday	19 Juneteenth, No School for PreK-12 Students		
Fri.-Wed.	20-25 Regents Examinations (school in session for PreK-6)		
Tues.-Thurs.	24-26 Elementary Early Dismissal, 11:20 a.m. / Grade 6 Early Dismissal, 10:40 a.m.		
Thursday	26 Last Day of School for Students		
Friday	27 Regents Rating Day, No School for PreK-12 Students		
Total		187	181

* Conference Days
Board Approved: 02/05/2024

Make-up days in order of need: April 16, April 17

T. J. Connor Faculty and Staff 2024-2025

Dr. Dan Murray, Principal
Ms. Keara Coakley, Assistant Principal

Pre-K & Kindergarten

Mary Kate Morrison (Pre-K)
Alexis Waite (Pre-K)
Jill Farrell
Kiersten Cometa
Sofia Bosco

First Grade Teachers

Amy Richmond
Caitlin Lattanzio
Samantha Berl

Second Grade Teachers

Alison Hughes
Ashley Snyder
Korrine Minster

Third Grade Teachers

Emily Mazzeo
Autumn Arnold
Kaylee Thompson

Fourth Grade Teachers

Claire Lenihan
Nicole Yare
Katie Prince

Fifth Grade Teachers

Julianne Greene
Ashley Olin
Shirley Marotta

Intervention Teachers

Kirsten Brown– Reading
Jennifer Matejcik – Math
Mary Kate Morrison – Math

Special Ed. Teachers

Deb Yates
Cristy Smith
Marissa Zinone
Kaylee Millard

Special Area Teachers

Phys. Ed.: Joseph Bordonaro and Samantha Pagliei
Librarian: Catie Abonado
Art: Julia Mazzota
General Music/Chorus: Nick Roche
Instrumental Music/Band: Beth McDougall

Specialists

School Nurse: Julie Seide, R.N.
Speech Therapy: Lora DeNero, Ed. D.
ESOL Teacher: Alison O’Neil
Behavior Specialist: Paula Schneider
Behavioral Assistant: Mark Bellucco
Psychologist: Emina Serhatlic
Social Worker: Tracy Pasquantonio
Counselor: Sydney Provo

BOCES Coaches

Math: Emily Liebowitz
ELA: TBA

Paraprofessionals

Julie Robinson	Jacque DeVoe
Linda Poole	Dawn Lodato
Carolena Clark	Barbara Horr
Evie Pizarro	Brittany Hickel
Beth Wacenske	Kelly Peck
Hailey Schlosser	Amanda Bucher

Main Office: Nikki Taggart

Security Window / Attendance: Nancy Berl

Maintenance & Custodial

Howie Green
Dawn Corbett
Doris Greico
Paul Butterazzi

Food Service

Tammy Brooks
Wendy Barney
Christie Petrie

THE SCHOOL DAY

8:00	Main Office opens
8:30	Students arrive (breakfast served 8:30 to 8:50)
8:50	School day officially begins
11:00	Half-Day Pre-K session ends
3:08	Walkers and Car Riders dismissed (from front entrance)
~3:20	Buses depart (from rear bus loop)
4:00	Main Office closes

(BOCES classes run from 8:15 to 2:30)

Arrival

Students are not be permitted to enter the building prior to 8:30 A.M. Students will be marked tardy if they arrive past 8:50 A.M. Walkers and car riders should use the front main entrance. Bussers will use the back entrance. Parents can accompany their children into school during the first eight days of school.

Dismissal

Walkers and car riders will be dismissed from the front, main entrance at 3:08 P.M. Parents must wait outside the building for their child to be dismissed. Changes for car riders must be made in writing (note or email to Nancy Berl) by 12:00 noon on the day of the change.

Buses will load at the back of the school at 3:08 P.M. Students will scan their ID badge into the StopFinder system on each bus. Bus changes require a parent or guardian to fill out an emergency transportation request form with a minimum notice of 7 calendar days. This form must be approved by transportation and the school before the change will go into effect.

ATTENDANCE

The Education Law of the State of New York requires that all children in the state between the ages of six and sixteen shall receive full-time instruction in school.

Absent: If a student has been absent for any reason, for all or part of the school day or number of days, a signed excuse is required on the day the student returns to school. This note is required even if the security office staff speaks to the parent/guardian while the student is absent. Automated attendance calls are made home at approximately 9:30 A.M. each day to inform parents/guardians that their child is not in attendance.

A student is considered legally absent for the following reasons:

- A. Illness
- B. Serious illness or death of a family member
- C. Doctor or Dental appointment
- D. Religious holidays or court appearances

Illegal absences from school are those that do not come under any of the circumstances listed above.

Chronic Absenteeism: A student who is absent for 10% or more of the possible school days is considered chronically absent. Formal notification letters will go out to these families after 60 and 120 days of school have passed. We want and expect every student to be in school every day that it is possible.

Lateness/Tardy: An excuse should accompany the child when he/she arrives at school stating the reason for their tardiness. Parents should come to the Security Window to sign their child in. Tardiness to school will be classified as legal or illegal in the same manner as absences from school. Students arriving after 8:50 A.M. will be considered tardy.

Leaving School During the Day: If the child must leave the building during the school day, an excuse should be sent to the teacher that morning stating the reason for leaving, when the child will be picked up, and if he/she will return to school that day. Parents should come to the Security Window and sign their child out at the time of departure. Students will not be allowed to wait outside of the building. Only persons designated by the student's parent/guardian may sign a child out of school.

In order to ensure students' safety, the office staff maintains a list of individuals who are authorized to obtain the release of students in attendance at the school. No student shall be released to the custody of an individual who is not the parent or guardian of the student, unless the individual's name appears on the list or verbal consent is granted by a parent or guardian. For security reasons, individuals picking up a student should be prepared to show a Photo ID upon request.

Parents or guardians may submit a list of individuals authorized to obtain the release of their children from school at the time of the child's enrollment. A parent or guardian may amend the list submitted pursuant to this regulation at any time, in writing, with the signature of the parent or guardian. Certified copies of any court orders or divorce decrees provided by the custodial parent, which restricts a parent's ability to seek release of his/her child, shall be maintained in the main office.

Excused from Physical Education

If your child is to be excused from physical education class, please send a note that morning stating the reason. If a prolonged absence is necessary, a doctor's note needs to be given to the school nurse.

CAFETERIA / FOOD SERVICE INFORMATION

The school publishes and sends home a school menu each month. Please review the menu to be sure the lunch is something your child will eat. The school lunch fulfills one third of a child's requirements for calories, protein, vitamins, and minerals each day. School breakfast fulfills one-quarter of a child's nutritional requirements. You can also view our menus online at:
<https://schools.mealviewer.com/school/TJConnorElementarySchool>

We have a computerized cashing system in which all students have accounts. ***MySchoolBucks.com*** is this online system that allows for money to be prepaid into your child's account. Please note there is a handling fee to use the online system. Money can also be added to a student's account at the cash register, should you choose not to use the online system. This is a way to avoid the handling fee.

Students should only eat the food provided by their parents or as part of the school lunch program. Since we have students with various food allergies/restrictions, students should not share their food.

Wheatland-Chili is able to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students. This is possible through a federal program known as the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). However, we still need families to complete a Free and Reduced Price Meal Application. It is important that we receive these completed applications on a yearly basis so that we can continue our eligibility for the CEP program. If you have any questions about the application, please email Marlos Norman, Director of Food Services, at marlos_norman@wheatlandchili.org.

COMMUNICATION

Contacting a Student During the School Day

If you need to contact your child during the school day for any reason, please call the main office at 889-6236. Do not call your child or his/her teacher directly as this will disrupt the educational process. Students are not to have cell phones powered on during the school day.

Ongoing Communication

Schools and families are partners in the educational process. Please reach out by phone, email, or through ClassDojo at any time. It is always best to start with the person closest to the situation (typically the classroom teacher) and then move up the chain of command (if your concern is not addressed). It is our expectation that inquiries from parents will be responded to within 24 hours.

Class Dojo

This is an online system that is available as a smartphone app or through a website (www.classdojo.com). Our school and classroom teachers use this as a primary means of communication. Parents will get notifications about new messages and can communicate back to the school through this platform.

Wednesday Notes

This is a monthly communication tool. It will contain student work as well as information from the school. It is an electronic version unless you have indicated a need for paper copies.

District Website

www.wheatlandchili.org showcases learning, special events, activities, and a wealth of information and documentation. Both schools (Elementary and Middle/High School) have their own page to highlight specific events.

District Calendar

The Wheatland-Chili School District publishes and distributes a calendar to all members of the school district. We encourage everyone to save and use this calendar to its fullest. It is mailed to all residents at the end of August. An electronic copy is also available on the district's website.

Address/Phone Number Change

Be sure to inform the main office as soon as possible with a new address or phone number. If you move within the district, you must supply the District Registrar (Jennifer Adrian) with proof of residency. Changes in before or after school childcare should also be reported to the main office as soon as possible.

Emergency Closings

School may be closed, have a delayed start, or need to close early due to weather conditions or other emergency situations. When this occurs, a call will be placed to all families through our automated calling system. Announcements will also be made over the following TV and radio stations:

WROC 8, WHEC 10, WHAM 13, FOX 31, WNYR AM, WXXI AM, WHAM AM, WPXY FM

REPORT CARDS, PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES, STATE TESTING

Report Card Schedule

Marking Period/Trimester 1: mailed home on December 9, 2024
Marking Period/Trimester 2: mailed home on March 31, 2025
Marking Period/Trimester 3: mailed home on June 30, 2025

Parent/Teacher Conference Schedule

Fall: November 25, November 26, and December 6, 2024
Spring: May 23, 2025

State Testing Schedule (Computer-Based Assessments)

ELA Assessment, Grades 3 – 5	April 8-9, 2025
Math Assessment, Grades 3 – 5	April 29-30, 2025
Science Assessment, Grade 5	May 13, 2025

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Please contact the school nurse directly if your child has stitches or is in a cast or splint. For safety reasons, without a doctor’s permissions, these children are not allowed in physical education or on the playground.

Control of Communicable Disease

In creating a healthy environment it is necessary to prevent the spread of communicable disease and to insure a rapid recovery with a minimum of after effects. It will be necessary to keep children home when they show any of the following symptoms: fever, earache, enlarged glands, vomiting, red eyes, discharge from eyes, pain accompanied by redness or fever, skin rashes/lesions, sore throat, or continuous cough.

If any of these symptoms are observed while your child is in school, the nurse will notify you if your child should need to be taken home. It is for this reason we ask all parents/guardians to update their contact information with home and work numbers as well as the name and telephone number of the person to be contacted if a parent/guardian cannot be reached. If you have any concerns about your child’s health, please feel free to discuss them with the school nurse.

Health Examination (“school physical”)

A health examination is required for children starting school in grades Pre-K or K and thereafter in grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 per NYS guidelines. The examination may be conducted by your family physician or through the Monroe County Department of Health. Results should be returned to the school nurse within the first 30 days of school. If your child has a scheduled appointment for an exam during this school year, but it is after the first 30 days of school, please notify the school nurse with the date.

Medications in School

Please do not allow your child to bring medication to school. Medications can only be given by the school nurse under the following State guidelines:

- Written permission from parents.
- Written permission from a physician with instructions for administering.
- Parents must bring the medicine to school in the original labeled container.
- All medicine is kept in a locked cabinet in the nurse’s office.

Pupil Accident Insurance

Pupil accident insurance coverage is carried by Pupil Benefits Plan, Inc. Claims and communications regarding this plan should be addressed as follows:

Pupil Benefits Plan, Inc.
101 Dutch Meadows Lane
Glenville, NY 12302

The District's student insurance contract is a supplemental one. This means that it is designed to assist in paying medical bills which are not covered by the family policy or to cover limited expenses in the event that the family does not have an accident policy. This insurance program does not guarantee 100% coverage.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

District and School Safety Plans

The Wheatland-Chili School District has adopted a district-wide school safety plan and building-level emergency response plans for each building in the district. These plans are intended to define how the district and each school building will respond to acts of violence and other disasters, and provide a framework for identifying and implementing appropriate strategies for creating and maintaining a safe, secure learning environment for all students. A copy of the district-wide school safety plan is available for examination in the district offices.

Emergency Drills

The building principal is responsible for conducting emergency drills in order to practice responding to emergency situations without confusion and panic. State law requires eight fire drills be completed by December 1st of each school year. Four additional emergency drills must be conducted by the end of each school year. These may include a lock down drill, shelter-in-place drill, or evacuation drill.

Automated External Defibrillators

The Wheatland-Chili School District maintains in each instructional school facility at least one functional automated external defibrillator (AED) for use during emergencies. Whenever public school facilities are used for school sponsored or school approved curricular or extracurricular events or activities or a school sponsored athletic contest is held at any location, the school administrator shall ensure the presence of at least one staff person who is trained in the operation and use of an AED. When a school-sponsored competitive athletic event is held at a site other than a public school facility, the public school officials must assure that AED equipment is provided on-site. There are three (3) AEDs on the T.J. Connor campus.

SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

School Counseling

Counseling provided within the school setting is an educational service that is designed to assist students in addressing social, emotional, or learning difficulties which may be interfering with the educational process. Counseling services often improve communication and interaction between the child and/or family and school personnel, which usually enables a child to be more productive in school. Counseling in school may be conducted in individual or group sessions, and is only provided for short-term sessions. The school does not provide long-term or family counseling but will help families find reliable providers. On staff at T. J. Connor is a school counselor, school social worker, and school psychologist.

Programs for Students with Disabilities

Classified students with disabilities are entitled to receive, at public expense, special education, related services, and/or supplementary aids and services as necessary to ensure a free, public education in the least restrictive environment that is appropriate to meet their individual needs.

Each student identified as having a disability will have access to the full range of programs and services of this school district, including extracurricular programs and activities, which are available to all other students enrolled in the public schools of the district. Parents/students who desire further information on these programs and services should contact the director of Pupil Personnel Services at 889-6259.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

The district shall provide academic intervention services to students who have been identified as being (or at risk of being) below the State's learning standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Intervention services will be delivered by the student's homeroom teacher, an intervention teacher, or a special education teacher.

A student's eligibility for intervention services will be determined based on his or her performance using multiple measures including the iReady diagnostic screening tool, Reading or Math assessment, NYS assessments, classroom or other assessments, and teacher recommendations.

A notice to parents will outline the reason their child qualified for intervention services, the type of services to be provided, and the plan for implementing intervention services. In addition, the district will provide parents with regular reports on the student's progress and information on ways to monitor and work with teachers to improve the student's performance. It is always the goal to have students exit out of intervention services once they are back on grade level.

Students can also be provided interventions and supports for social, emotional, or behavioral reasons.

Homebound Instruction

A student who is temporarily unable to attend school for at least two weeks due to physical, mental, or emotional illness or injury, may be eligible to be instructed at home or in the hospital by an appropriately certified teacher. The parent must notify the principal if a student will be out for an extended school absence. If the inability to attend is due to a medical or emotional reason, the parent should obtain a written medical request for homebound instruction from the child's physician. Where advanced notice is not possible, the parent should make every effort to obtain homework assignments until such a time as home/hospital instruction may begin. As soon as possible after receiving notice of a prolonged absence, the district will arrange for home instruction for the time periods prescribed by law. A parent or another adult is expected to be present during all teaching sessions.

PRE-K

Dismissal for Pre-K Students

All car riders and walkers will be dismissed through the front main entrance. A designated school aide will walk the students up to the security window at 11:00 A.M. (for the ½-day session) and 3:08 P.M. (for the full day session). Students will then be dismissed.

Students riding the bus will be dismissed through the back door to the bus loop. Mrs. Morrison will accompany the students to the buses at 11:00 A.M. (for the ½-day session) and Ms. Waite at 3:08 P.M. (for the full day session). Students will scan their ID Badge into the StopFinder system as they board. This application allows for both attendance and GPS tracking of each student that is on each bus.

Attendance for Pre-K Students

We hope our students are healthy and able to attend school every day we are in session. If a student has been absent from school for 18+ days, that student may be unenrolled from our Pre-K program. This is in line with the district's attendance policy, which defines "chronically absent" as missing 10% or more of the available days in a school year. Factors involved in this decision are the reason for the absences (excused vs. unexcused) and whether or not we have a waiting list of students hoping to enroll in our Pre-K program. Consideration will be given for absences due to a significant illness that is documented by a medical doctor.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND SUPPORT

The goal of good conduct is based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, tolerance, honesty, and integrity. We expect every student at all grade levels, teachers, other district personnel, and parents to engage in positive social behaviors, respectful and caring communication, and responsible decision-making – essential qualities of character that promote this goal.

5 School Rules - These are to be enforced across the Wheatland-Chili Central School District:

- Use appropriate and respectful language with peers and adults.
- Be safe and respect others' personal dignity and space (Keep hands and feet to self).
- Listen, acknowledge, and respond to directives and requests.
- Arrive to class on time.
- Stay in class and have a pass to travel in public spaces.

T.J. Connor Tenets - A simplified version of our guiding beliefs at the elementary school:

- Work Hard
- Be Kind
- Treat Others With Respect

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) - a framework used to increase a school's sense of safety, improve school climate, and support improved academic outcomes for all students. In turn, this approach has a direct impact on the reduction of disciplinary incidents. Please refer to the PBIS parent brochure for more information.

Behavioral Infractions

The Code of Conduct and Support categorizes behavioral infractions into three levels. Interventions and supports are customized based on the level of infraction. Egregious rule violations may immediately move to a higher level of infraction.

LEVEL 1 – Immediate teacher response to re-engage student

Behavior concerns require teachers to use prevention strategies to address low-impact behaviors and may involve consultation with a member of the Student Support team. Persistent behavior concerns should be documented. Some examples of Level 1 behaviors include:

- tardiness, inappropriate language/gestures, horseplay, running, making noise, insubordination, being disruptive or off-task, cell phone violations, dress code violations, and low-level physical contact

LEVEL 2 – Assigned consequences not including suspension

These behavior concerns (including persistent Level 1 concerns) require submission of a written referral by the teacher. A student or family conference with an administrator or member of the Student Support Center team may be held. Some examples of Level 2 behaviors include:

- Intentional and non-stop disruption of learning through excessive movements, noises, or yelling
- Repeated teasing, taunting, or name calling
- Low-impact physical or verbal aggression towards another (loud fussing, pushing, shoving)

LEVELS 3 and 4 – Assigned consequences including in-school and out-of-school suspension

These behavior concerns present a risk to the safety, health, or welfare of adults and students and will involve in-school suspensions (partial to full day), short-term out-of-school suspensions (from 1 to 5 days), or long-term out-of-school suspension (more than five days, up to and including a full year suspension or expulsion from school). The length of suspension will be based on the severity and frequency of the behavior and will include an opportunity for the family to conference with an administrator. Long-term suspensions require a Superintendent's Hearing. Some examples of Level 3 or 4 behaviors include:

- Highly aggressive physical or emotional behaviors that cause injury
- Dangerous or reckless behaviors that seriously jeopardize the safety of students and adults
- Possession of a weapon or other illegal substance

Restorative Practices

Wheatland-Chili is committed to being a restorative district. This means we hold students accountable for their behaviors and we make sure that students “make it right” with those who were harmed by their actions. True behavior change only occurs when lessons are learned.

This chart shows the differences between a restorative and non-restorative mindset to student discipline:

Restorative Mindset	Non-Restorative Mindset
People and relationships matter	Rules and unconditional respect matter
Strive to connect and relate to others from a place of mutual respect	Relates to others through a role (e.g., teacher to student)
Everyone is innately good and capable of change	Some people are innately bad and cannot change their behavior
Collaborative decision-making is valued	Autocratic decision-making is valued
Feelings of students are fundamental to school climate and personal well-being	Programs and school structures are fundamental to school climate
When things go wrong, focus on harm caused to all	When things go wrong, focus on laying blame
Personal accountability and responsibility for actions is important	Punishing those who are to blame is important
Behavior is a form of communication	Behavior is personal
Conflict and wrongdoing are framed as a learning moment	Conflict and wrongdoing are problems to be dealt with
Seeks to support others in behavior change and provides structures for ongoing behavior support	Demands behavior change and escalated punitive consequences for further misconduct
Social-emotional capabilities need to be taught and reinforced	Social-emotional capabilities are neurologically fixed
Recognizes the impact of affect and emotion in human interaction and proceeds accordingly	Lacks understanding of affect and emotion

TRANSPORTATION

Safe transportation of children to and from school is a joint responsibility between our transportation department and staff and the students and families.

If you have any transportation concerns, please call the Transportation Office at 585-889-6271, office hours are 6:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. You can also contact Sheryl Guidice, Director of Transportation, at 889-6243. Parents are always encouraged to speak directly with their child's bus driver, although drivers have been instructed not to delay their routes for more than a moment or two, nor to block traffic while doing so.

Transportation Eligibility

Each student must be assigned a bus stop location in the morning and a bus stop location in the afternoon. Changes to any transportation can only be made with seven (7) calendar days' notice. An authorized adult must be at the bus stop in the afternoon to receive students in grades Pre-K, K, and 1. If an authorized adult is not at the bus stop, these students will remain on the bus until we are able to ensure that a parent/guardian is available to receive the student. To help us ensure the safety of all children, a child is required to ride the bus he/she is assigned. Additionally, children are only allowed to board and get off at their assigned bus stop.

Stop Finder

All students that ride the bus will use their ID Badge to scan in to the bus. The StopFinder application will then allow school personnel and family members to view, in real time, the location of their child's bus. Contact the transportation office or the business office if you need help setting up your account.

Five Rules for the Bus

These five rules mirror the school rules. They are posted in all Wheatland-Chili School Buses:

- Use appropriate and respectful language with peers and adults.
- Be safe and respect others' personal dignity and space (Keep hands and feet to self).
- Listen, acknowledge, and respond to directives and requests.
- Arrive to your bus stop five minutes before your pick-up time.
- Remain seated at all times on the bus.

Suspension from Transportation

If a student does not conduct him/herself properly on a bus, the bus driver is expected to bring such misconduct to the attention of the Transportation Director. Students who become a serious disciplinary problem may have their riding privileges suspended by the director, in consort with the principal, the superintendent, or his/her designee.

In such cases, the student's parent will become responsible for seeing that his/her child gets to and from school safely. Should the suspension from transportation amount to a suspension from attendance, the district will make appropriate arrangements to provide for the student's education.

A student subjected to a suspension from transportation is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law 3214. However, the student and the student's parent will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with the director, the principal, or a designee to discuss the conduct and the penalty involved.

OTHER INFORMATION

Procedures for School Visitors

Please call ahead or send an email if there is a reason for you to visit the school.

Visitors seeking to enter the school during regular school hours must enter through the front main entrance door, show acceptable identification (valid driver's license or other picture I.D.), and state their reason for visiting the school. The visitor's identification will be run through the National Sex Offender Registry. Repeat visitors to school will not need to bring their identification upon subsequent visits, but will still need to check in and receive a visitor's badge every time. The staff at the visitors' door may also verify the appropriateness of the purpose of the visit with administrative or security staff before allowing entry. Approved visitors will receive a visitor's badge, which must be displayed conspicuously while on school property and returned at the end of the visit. We thank you in advance for your cooperation with these procedures as we all work together to ensure the safety of our children.

Student Use of Computerized Resources

The Wheatland-Chili Central School District recognizes that effective use of technologies is important to our students and will be essential to them as adults. The District provides student access to various computerized information resources through the District's computer system. This may include access to hardware, software/applications, on-line databases, and the Internet.

The District's computer system is for educational and/or research use only and must be consistent with the goals and purposes of the District. Generally, the same standards of acceptable student conduct which apply to any school activity shall apply to the use of the District's computer resources. Individual users of the District's computerized information resources are responsible for their own behavior and communications over the District computer network. Inappropriate use of the District's computer resources may result in disciplinary action.

Student data files and other electronic storage areas will be treated like school lockers. This means that such areas shall be considered Wheatland-Chili Central School District property and subject to control and inspection. Student access to the District's computer system will be automatically provided unless the parent has submitted written notification to the District that such access not be permitted.

At T. J. Connor, students are provided access to computerized resources based on student development and curricular needs. We provide instruction in acceptable use of computerized resources while utilizing technology to enhance student learning. Students are issued computing devices that are to be used during the school day, under the supervision and guidance of our faculty and staff. Inappropriate use, maltreatment, or damage to computing devices will be investigated with consequences applied as appropriate.

Lost and Found

All unmarked lost clothing is placed in the main hallway each day. Any money or jewelry that has been found is kept in the Main Office. Children should check these places periodically for lost property. Please make sure you mark your child's property with his/her name to ensure easy return of these articles.

Indoor or Outdoor Recess?

We consult www.weather.com and use the "Feels Like" temperature for the day.

- "Feels Like" 25 degrees and above - Outdoor Recess
- "Feels Like" 16-24 degrees - Optional or Abbreviated Outdoor Recess
- "Feels Like" 15 degrees or below - Indoor Recess

STUDENT EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Instrumental Lessons/Band

Instrumental lessons are offered in fifth grade. Lessons are given during the regular school day. The school provides rental agreements for some of the instruments. Often, students provide their own instruments through a trial rental plan offered by local music stores. The instrumental music instructor will contact students and send fliers home with more complete information during the first weeks of school. Band rehearsals are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the high school auditorium. Transportation arrangements are made so students get back to T.J. Connor before school starts.

Chorus

All students in grades 4 and 5 have the opportunity to participate in chorus. Sign-ups for those interested students will take place in early September. Chorus rehearsals are held during regular school hours. There is a winter and spring concert that is held each school year.

Book Store

The Book Store will be open on set days in the morning between 8:30 and 8:50 A.M. Students may purchase school supplies like pens, pencils, erasers, paper, markers, stickers, and folders. All are offered at a nominal price.

Safety Patrol

Fifth-grade students who serve on the Safety Patrol assist the movement of students safely through the building and to and from the busses. They serve as positive role models for other students, act in a fair manner, and are willing to help other students whenever needed. Students on Safety Patrol also raise and lower the American flag in front of our school building each day.

Student Council

The Student Council is made up of students in the fifth grade. Student Council promotes school culture and engages in service learning.

School Ambassadors

Fifth grade students serve as school ambassadors. School Ambassadors welcome visitors and new students to T. J. Connor. They also participate in service learning projects and may assist with dismissal of younger students. Fourth grade teachers make recommendations for students to serve as ambassadors for the following year.

Morning Announcers

Fifth grade students can choose to serve as a morning announcer. Students work with Dr. Murray or Ms. Coakley to prepare, present, and video tape the morning announcements. These are then shown the next day to all classrooms via a secure link.

Storytelling Club

Third, fourth, and fifth graders in this club meet after school to learn and practice storytelling. There are two performances a year for the community.

Environmental Club

Students in this club meet after school to learn about positive ways they can save the environment. They assist with our school-wide recycling club and take on other service projects.

T. J. Connor Drama Club

Open to students in fourth and fifth grade, the drama club practices after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the fall. This theatre in education experience allows students to see and feel how their behavior affects others. Students will learn public speaking skills, music enrichment, and increased empathy. The ultimate goal is to perform a play or musical for friends, family, and the community.

STAR Club (Students Together Against Racism)

This club is for fourth and fifth graders to expand their knowledge of race and culture in our society. The goals of the STAR club go hand-in-hand with our social/emotional learning (SEL) vision and New York State's mandate for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Students will collaborate to organize school-wide activities and other presentations.

Be You Club

This club provides an opportunity for students to gather and share common experiences and culture in order to develop strategies for student success. It is open to all students and will support our students of color by creating an environment where they can express themselves openly. The ultimate goal is to establish connections across school and community to create a sense of oneness and belonging.

Wheatland Recreation Youth Programs & Scottsville Athletic Association

A listing of programs offered through Wheatland Rec. or SAA is sent home, as available, with students via the Wednesday Envelope or through ClassDojo.

Wheatland-Chili PTA

All parents, teachers, and district residents interested in their child's educational program are invited to become members of the PTA. The District Calendar will include dates and times of special events throughout the school year that the PTA sponsors, as well as meeting schedules.

OTHER SCHOOL RULES

Party Invitations

To maintain the dignity of each student, please only distribute party invitations in school if the entire class is invited to the party.

Dress Code

Coming to school is the "job" or professional time for our students. As such, attire that is safe, not distracting, and not overly revealing is expected. We want to reinforce with our students that attire worn by choice on one's personal time is not always the same attire that is allowed in a professional arena. Hats, Hoods, and Ear Phones/Ear Buds are to be taken off and put away upon entrance to the school building. Students may put these items back on when they leave at the end of the day.

Use of Personal Electronic Devices / Cell Phone Policy

The Wheatland-Chili Central School District assumes no liability for "personal electronic devices," which are any device that electronically communicates, sends, receives, stores, records, reproduces or displays voices and/or text communications or data. These include but are not limited to: cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, video recorders, video game players, iPods, MP3 players, music and media players, cameras, tablets, laptops, personal computers, and personal digital assistants (PDAs).

At T.J. Connor, student electronic devices brought to school must be turned off and left in a student's book bag/backpack during the school day. Cell phones and all similar devices will be confiscated if seen or heard. "Off and Away During the Day" is an easy way to remember the rule.

Riding Bicycles to School

Students who normally walk to school may ride their bicycles to school at the discretion of their parent/guardian. Students that are assigned to ride a bus and wish to ride their bikes must bring written permission signed by their parent/guardian. All bicycles are to be parked in the bike racks at the side entrance by the playground. It is recommended that a bicycle lock be used. The school does not assume any responsibility for bicycles. Students who ride a bicycle (or any form of pedaled or motorized vehicle) to school must wear a helmet at all times while on school grounds.

Whom to Contact (in accordance with BOE policy 3230)

We believe that questions and concerns are best handled by the person with the closest level of involvement to the issue at hand. At T.J. Connor, the typical chain of command is:

- Your child’s teacher or the faculty or staff member that is most involved.
- Student Support Team (Mrs. Schneider, Mr. B., Mrs. Provo, Ms. Serhatlic, or Mrs. Pasquantonio)
- Office Personnel (Mrs. Taggart, Mrs. Berl, or Mrs. DeVoe)
- Administration (assistant principal, Ms. Coakley; principal, Dr. Murray)

Food Brought into School

As recommended by the Monroe County Health Department, we do not allow any food other than commercially prepared food to be brought into school for student consumption. This practice applies to food that is sent to school for a party or special occasion. The reason for this rule is the spread of communicable diseases such as Hepatitis A through the consumption of home-prepared foods.

Please be aware that we have students with severe nut or other food allergies. The following is a list of treats that can be brought into school that should not contain tree nuts (though we cannot guarantee possible cross-contamination during the manufacturing process):

Dole Fruit Bowl	Jell-O Pudding Snacks	Cheese / String Cheese
Mott’s Fruit Chews	Fig Newtons	Fresh Fruits / Vegetables
Graham Crackers	Rice Crispy Treats	Popcorn
Teddy Grahams	Pretzels	Dried Fruit
Cheeze-Its	Yogurt	Pepperidge Farm’s Goldfish
Entenmann’s Little Bite snacks	Wheat Thins	Doritos / Tortilla Chips

Taking Photographs and Posting to Social Media

Events that are held during the school day, and are not open to the general public, are considered part of the instructional program. As such, photographs taken by parents or other community members are not to be shared on social media. There are students whose parents have not given permission to have their child’s image shared. This is confidential information that school officials are aware of, but information that is not to be shared with the general public. As such, the district has given approval only to select school officials to share photographs of school events on social media.

School events that are held outside the school day, and are open the general public, are not governed by the same restrictions.

Parents or guardians who do not give permission to have their child photographed for district or school publications should file a “Photo Permission Denial Form” with the main office.

Mission Statement

The Wheatland-Chili Central School community is committed to academic excellence which empowers all individuals to become motivated learners and challenges them to excel as citizens in a global society.

Social and Emotional Learning Vision

Wheatland-Chili Central School District's social and emotional learning vision aims to create collaborative school environments built on positive and supportive relationships, where students and staff feel safe, valued, respected, and encouraged to be curious, take risks, and learn from their mistakes. This district will foster a community of self-aware, compassionate, critical thinkers who are motivated to pursue their passions.

Diversity Statement

WCCSD is committed to creating and embracing an environment that celebrates the diversity and uniqueness of every student, faculty, staff, and community member. We will foster true connection in an authentic, student centered, inclusive culture where all voices are lifted, valued, and all inequitable barriers are removed.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

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Dr. Daniel Murray, Elementary Principal
Keara Coakley, Assistant Elementary Principal
Camille Zitz, Secondary School Principal
Jason Shetler, Assistant Secondary Principal



Rooted in community. Dedicated to success.