



# WC Wildcat Connections

Wheatland-Chili Central School District

Fall 2024

## Students Nail Home Repair in New Class

When a faucet drips or a toilet runs or a gutter becomes clogged, many homeowners call in a handy person. But with a little know-how, they could fix problems like these themselves. That is exactly what Wheatland-Chili High School students are learning to do in a brand-new property maintenance course.

Launched at the beginning of the school year, the technology elective teaches students how to do basic repairs and maintenance around the house. In class, you can find students pulling apart a broken dryer, building the wood frame of a wall and running electrical wiring through it, mounting a toilet or knocking down a counter and cabinets with a sledgehammer. It all depends on what students want to do. The class is student driven. Teacher Scott Melville has set up the class to give students more control over what they learn, allowing them to choose their projects.

“They are at the center of their learning,” said Melville. “I want them to get their hands dirty and be confident in their skills.”

Besides their own projects, students are tackling work for people outside the class. They recently built a miniature golf hole for another classroom. The school will expand on that idea with another new elective this spring. The construction systems course will have students building structures like shelving units, sheds, chicken coops and more. Melville hopes to solicit projects from the community. Students will design the product to the client’s

specifications and devise a list of materials required. All the client has to do is purchase the materials.

Classes like property maintenance and construction systems also give students the opportunity to dip into the different trades before they have the option to enroll in more intense career and technical education programs. In October, property maintenance students participated in the Careers and Construction Day at the Monroe County Fleet Center, where they tried out jobs like brick laying and welding and even got to operate some heavy machinery.

These hands-on, student-driven learning experiences allow students to gain valuable skills, empowering them to be more self-sufficient while setting them up for success beyond high school. They are not only an investment in students’ futures, but a benefit to the community.

*The property maintenance class is always on the lookout for materials to work with like used appliances, fixtures, and construction, electrical and plumbing supplies. Community members who have items they are looking to get rid of, can contact Melville via email at [scott\\_melville@wheatlandchili.org](mailto:scott_melville@wheatlandchili.org) to arrange a donation. The class will provide pickup. Additionally, those who may be interested in commissioning a project by the construction systems class this spring can also email Melville.*



### Inside This Issue:

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- Spirit Week
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- Salute to Veterans

## Capital Improvements Continue

Wheatland-Chili is wrapping up its current capital improvement project and moving forward with the next.

The Middle/High School underwent quite a transformation this summer. Students and staff returned for the new school year to a brand-new kitchen, cafeteria, and senior and staff lounges, a renovated nurse's suite, and new wall tile in the front hallway. Crews also repaved the bus and drop-off loops at both the MS/HS and T. J. Connor Elementary over the summer.

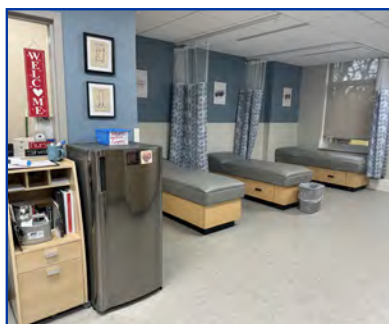
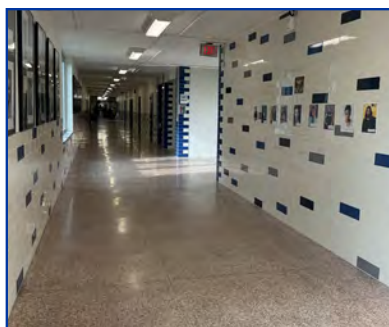
The installation of new door locksets with secure key fob access and new front-entrance marquees at both schools, the last phase of the project, is now underway and is expected to be complete by January.

The work is part of the capital improvement project approved by voters in May 2022. It also included a new accessible playground at T. J. Connor, which was completed in August 2023.

Planning for the next capital project approved by voters in May 2024 is now underway.

The no-tax-impact project includes renovations to the counseling suite and pool at the MS/HS; bathroom renovations and fire alarm upgrades at T. J. Connor; and repaving of parking lots and new roofing at both schools.

Work on the next project is expected to begin this spring and continue through summer 2026.



## Superintendent Quick Announces Retirement

Superintendent Lynda Quick, Esq. has announced her decision to retire at the end of the 2024-25 school year.



Superintendent Quick's last day will be June 30, 2025. She submitted a formal notice of retirement to the Board of Education in November. Quick has served as Wheatland-Chili's Superintendent since 2020.

"It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve as your superintendent. This is an amazing community with dedicated and caring individuals," said Quick. "I will continue to cherish my time here and will work hard for my remaining months to help lead us to continued growth and improvement."

The Board of Education has retained Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Thomas K. Putnam to act as a consultant in the selection of a superintendent of schools. More information regarding the search process will be released in the coming weeks.

## Board of Education Welcomes New Members

The Wheatland-Chili Board of Education has three new members.

Stephanie Ely, Heather Woerner and Adria Callery began their terms as trustees this August after District residents elected them to the Board of Education during the annual election in May.

Ely, a teacher, and Woerner, an acute care nurse, are both Wheatland-Chili graduates. Callery, who works in the legal field, has lived in the District for several years. All three new members have children currently attending school in the District.

Ely and Woerner's terms run through 2027 and Callery's through 2025.

*New BOE members Stephanie Ely (far left), Heather Woerner (second from left) and Adria Callery (far right) with School Business Official Jessica Jackson during the MCSBA New School Board Member Fiscal Training*



## Board of Education Honored

In celebration of New York State School Board Recognition Week, Wheatland-Chili Board of Education members were recognized for their dedication to the school community and its students during their meeting on October 28.



*(L to R) BOE members James Musshafen, Shanna Fraser, Stephanie Ely, Gregory Berl, Courtney Panek, Heather Woerner and Adria Callery*



## New Position Strengthens School-Family Relationships

When schools and families work together, students succeed. With that in mind, the District has hired a new staff member to build and bolster school-family relationships.

Jessica Shelby is the Middle/High School's new home/school assistant. Her focus is on supporting students by connecting with families and bridging gaps between homes and school.

A major part of Shelby's work is promoting consistent attendance. She is helping families address barriers to regular attendance like transportation, and health or social-emotional concerns by connecting them to community resources and services and providing them with guidance and tools to help get students to school.

In addition to collaborating with families on attendance, Shelby works with students every day. That work includes supervising the Den and facilitating study skills groups for sixth through ninth graders.

These further efforts to foster school, student and family connections and collaboration are helping ensure that students have the support they need to succeed inside and outside the classroom.

Families looking to connect with Shelby can contact her via email at [jessica\\_shelby@wheatlandchili.org](mailto:jessica_shelby@wheatlandchili.org).

## Welcome New Staff

**T. J. Connor**  
Elementary

**Sofia Bosco**  
Kindergarten Teacher

**Claire Lenihan**  
Third Grade Teacher

**Emily Mazzeo**  
Fourth Grade Teacher

**Samantha Mickley**  
Contract Substitute  
Teacher

**Kaylee Millard**  
Special Ed Teacher

**Ashley Olin**  
Fifth Grade Teacher

**Sydney Provo**  
School Counselor

**Paula Schneider**  
Behavior Specialist

**Emina Serhatlic**  
School Psychologist

### Middle/High School

**Lauren Anten**  
PE Teacher

**Kyle Annis**  
Technology Teacher

**Shelly Berghash**  
Teacher Aide

**Sydney Combs**  
Science Teacher

**Jimena Freda**  
Teacher Aide

**Shannon Gage**  
Art Teacher

**Allen Kubitz**  
PE Teacher

**Sarah Keydel**  
School Secretary

**Jessica Shelby**  
Home/School Assistant

### Transportation

**Matthew Mackin**  
Bus Driver

**Richard Willis**  
Bus Driver

## Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat: Annis Returns to Roots at Wheatland-Chili

Wheatland-Chili has welcomed another alumni back home to help guide the next generation of Wildcats.

Kyle Annis is the Middle/High School's new technology teacher. Annis graduated from the school in 2002 and more than 20 years later, he has returned to the place where the seeds for his career as a technology teacher were first planted.

When looking back at his time as a student, he says his best memories are of sports — he played basketball and baseball — and the projects he worked on in his tech classes. In fact, it was a Wheatland-Chili teacher that first told him about the technology education program at SUNY Oswego, where he would end up earning his degree.

After college, he made his way to the west coast, where he taught for a time before shifting gears to pursue a career in technology sales. Upon his return to Rochester, he continued in the sales field until teaching called him back. He says becoming a father and the joy that comes with watching his children grow and achieve milestones — big or small — is ultimately what inspired his return. And the opportunity to develop his own curriculum and return to a place where he has many connections — his family still lives in the community, and his brother, Chad, is a business teacher at the Middle/High School — made the decision no-brainer.

Annis is excited to continue to develop the school's technology program and to watch his students learn and grow and to celebrate their everyday successes.

Welcome back!





# Spirit Week 2024





## Seniors at Stella Maris

The Class of 2025 headed to Camp Stella Maris on Conesus Lake for a favorite tradition. The day of fun and bonding included games, icebreakers and adventure-based challenges. It was a great opportunity for seniors to come together as they embark on their final year of high school.



## Student-Athletes Named Genesee Region All-Stars

Congratulations to our student-athletes who were selected as Genesee Region All-Stars for fall 2024!

- Vanessa Guerrero, Soccer
- Sienna Mekker, Soccer
- Jaeda Mekker, Soccer
- Ivan Miller, Cross Country
- Keira Nash, Soccer

All-stars are nominated by their coaches and then chosen by popular vote of all coaches in the league.



## Fall Sports Senior Nights

Celebrating our athletes in the Class of 2025!

### Boys Cross Country



Seniors (L to R) Dillon Nelson and River Brandes (Photo by Let's Go Photo)

### Girls Soccer



Seniors (L to R) Sienna Mekker, Lillian Swavelly, Camryn Limner

### Boys Soccer



Seniors (L to R) Aiden Brandes, Sandip Tiwari, Pdraig Crowley, Eric Russell, Keith Nicolosi, James Montgomery (Not pictured: Paris Williams Jr.)

### Girls Volleyball



Seniors (Front L to R) Julia Burkhardt, Jamie Crawford, Reghan LaMere, (Back L to R) Madeline LaVair, Nathan Rhoads, Caitlynn Skellen, Katie Tabor



## Band Students Perform with Select Groups

Several Wheatland-Chili band students earned opportunities to perform with other top student-musicians this fall.

Rylee Crawford (French horn), Isaac Dumrese (bassoon), Evelyn McDougall (oboe), Derek Phillips (tenor saxophone), Addison Reynolds (flute) and Annaliese Schoenthal (flute) took the stage with the Junior Wind Symphony at the Hochstein School in October. The symphony features advanced seventh- and eighth-grade wind, percussion and brass players from Monroe and surrounding counties.

Tenth grade trumpet player Freddie Woerner performed with the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Area All-State Symphonic Band at Newark High School in November. The group features elite instrumentalists in grades 10-12 from Monroe and the surrounding seven counties.



## National Honor Society Inducts New Members

Congratulations to the National Honor Society's newest inductees!

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Cora Baird        | Miguel Gonzalez       |
| Torrence Bansbach | Wilbur Kohn           |
| Talen Carey       | Jahzara McGee-Burgess |
| Ella Cullum       | Jackson Semmel        |
| Kira DeBruyne     | Katie Smith           |
| Destenie Gardner  |                       |



## Wildcats Off and Running: 2024-25 School Year in Full Swing





## Musical Knights Take the Stage in 'Joust!'

The Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grade Drama Club reimagined a medieval legend for its fall production.

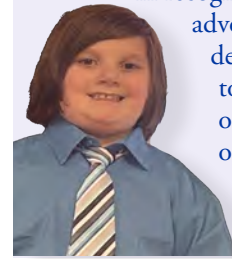
The club presented "Joust!" on November 21 and 22. The medieval musical is based on the tale of King Arthur and his knights, but with a twist: all weapons have been replaced by musical instruments.

"Joust!" included a cast and crew of more than 30 students and was produced and directed by Beth McDougall, who also served as stage manager, Nicholas Roche, who also served as accompanist, and Alexis Waite, who also served as choreographer.



## Student Advocates for School Bus Safety

T. J. Connor fourth grader Coyle O'Shea helped his schoolmates understand the importance of staying safe on the bus. He assisted with the Transportation Department's presentation to students during National School Bus Safety Week in October. O'Shea earned the role in recognition of his advocacy after he delivered a speech to the Board of Education on the value of promoting bus safety in school.



## Sending Mr. Howie off in Style

Beloved T. J. Connor maintenance mechanic Howard Green, aka Mr. Howie, retired in November. To celebrate his last day and show their appreciation, students and staff lined the halls to cheer him on as he walked the school one last time. Mr. Howie and his dedication to the school community will be greatly missed!



## Storytellers Spin Spooky Tales

Ghosts, ghouls and goblins, oh my! The T. J. Connor Storytellers invited the community to Johnson Park for an evening of eerie stories by the fire. The fireplace in the Park's pavilion was the perfect backdrop for the spooky season celebration.



## T. J. Connor Salutes Veterans

Students brought the veterans in their lives to school for a special Veterans Day celebration. The festivities included a lineup of patriotic songs and a parade around the school. T. J. Connor hosts the event every year around Veterans Day to pay tribute to those who served and sacrificed.



**Wheatland-Chili Central School District**

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Shanna Fraser, *Vice President*  
Gregory Berl  
Adria Callery  
Stephanie Ely  
Courtney Panek  
Heather Woerner

**Superintendent**

Lynda Quick, Esq.

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Betsy Martin

# Upcoming Events

## December

10	HS Winter Concert	7 p.m.
12	MS Winter Concert	7 p.m.
16	BOE Meeting	7 p.m.
17	Elementary Winter Concert	7 p.m.
20	MS/HS Progress Reports Mailed	
23-Jan. 3	Holiday Recess — No School	

## January

9	PTA Meeting	6:30 p.m.
13	BOE Meeting	7 p.m.
20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day — No School	
21-24	Regents and Local Exams — School in Session	
27	BOE Meeting	7 p.m.
27-31	PreK and Kindergarten Registration Week	
31	MS/HS Report Cards Mailed	4 p.m.

## February

10	BOE Meeting	7 p.m.
13	PTA Meeting	7 p.m.
17-21	Winter Recess — No School	
24	BOE Meeting	7 p.m.

# WE'RE HIRING!

*Join our team!*



### OPEN POSITIONS:

- Bus Attendant
- Bus Driver
- Cleaner
- Food Service Worker
- Substitute Secretary/Office Clerk
- Substitute Teacher
- Teacher Aide
- And more

Apply today at [wheatlandchili.org](http://wheatlandchili.org)