



Wildcat Connections

Wheatland-Chili Central School District

Winter 2025

Williams Scores Way Into Record Book

This Valentine's Day was one Leighton Williams Jr. will never forget.

Wheatland-Chili Boys Varsity Basketball was taking on Oakfield-Alabama at home, and he was about to make history. The senior point guard was just eight points from becoming the team's all-time

leading scorer, and upon notching his 1,754th career point with a fast break layup three minutes into the second quarter, he secured the title, and the crowd erupted.



Williams and previous record holder Rodney Roberts

The previous program mark of 1,753 points had been held by Rodney Roberts since 2015. A decade later, Roberts, who now coaches basketball, presented Williams with the game ball after his record-breaking bucket. Williams finished with 24 points in a 55-48 win over Oakfield-Alabama. And that wasn't his only record-breaking game of the season. With 52 points in a match against Elba the week before, he set a program record for most points in a game.

Williams has played on the varsity squad since eighth grade, but he will join a new team next year — the Cardinals. He has committed to St. John Fisher University, where he plans to major in athletic performance.



Williams' record-breaking basket

Drama Club Brings *Little Women* From Page to Stage

The Middle/High School Drama Club is bringing an American classic to life for their upcoming production of "Little Women."

A musical adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's coming-of-age novel, the show follows the adventures of sisters, Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March, and their experience growing up in Civil War America. After putting on musical comedies the last few years, director Amanda Petrella-Christ chose "Little Women" to give students the opportunity to develop their artistry with a more dramatic piece. The upcoming production features a total of 34 students in the cast, crew and pit band.

"Little Women" will take the MS/HS auditorium stage March 27 at 5 p.m., March 28 at 7 p.m. and March 29 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at wheatlandchili.org/community/tickets.



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- Golden Apple Award
- Kindness Challenge
- New LED Signs
- Section V Champion

DATE CHANGE: 2025 Graduation Ceremony Moved to June 29

Please note, the graduation ceremony for the Wheatland-Chili High School Class of 2025 has been rescheduled to **Sunday, June 29**.

The ceremony was originally scheduled for Saturday, June 28, however, the time and location will remain the same: 2 p.m. at Roberts Wesleyan University's Hale Auditorium. Graduation rehearsal will still take place on Friday, June 27.

Students Complete Technology Classroom Renovations

Technology students are using what they learn to transform where they learn.

The Middle/High School has been working to retool its technology program to offer students more authentic opportunities and more variety of projects. But the updated programming required upgrades to the school's technology classrooms. These necessary renovations presented a real-time, hands-on learning experience for technology students, so they were put to work.



The project started with the demolition of the existing space, which was made up of two classrooms separated by a woodshop. Guided by teacher Scott Melville, students began by knocking down the wall separating the woodshop and one of the classrooms. They also ripped out the anchored workstations and put them on wheels to make the space — also used for ceramics class — more versatile. The work, which began in December and was completed by the middle of January, also included the installation of new flooring and expansion of the dust collection system.

Digital Signage Lights Up District

New digital signs outside T. J. Connor Elementary and the Middle/High School are enhancing District communication.

Unveiled in January, the Daktronics digital displays share important information with the community, including upcoming events, and they are hard to miss. The sign in front of the MS/HS is located near the bus loop entrance and replaces an outdated version that had been in the same spot. T. J. Connor's

is positioned at the entrance of the drop-off loop on Beckwith Avenue and is a new addition to the building.



The signage as well as the installation of new electronic locks throughout both schools are the final phase of the capital project approved by voters in 2022.

Work on the next capital project, approved by voters last May, will begin this spring and continue through summer 2026. The no-tax-impact project includes renovations to the MS/HS counseling suite and pool, bathroom renovations and fire alarm upgrades at T. J. Connor and repaving of parking lots and new roofing at both schools.

Prince Earns Golden Apple

T. J. Connor Elementary’s Katie Prince thought it was going to be a normal school day, but when she walked into her classroom on January 13, the fourth grade teacher was greeted by the enthusiastic cheers and applause of her students, as well as a crew from News 8 WROC. They were there to surprise her with a Golden Apple Award.

The award recognizes teachers and administrators from across the Greater Rochester region who make a significant impact on the lives of students. Recipients are selected based on nominations by students, families or colleagues. Student Andrew Harper, who was in Prince’s class last year, nominated her for the award.

“She’s really kind, is always there when you need a hug. She’s never mad at you. She’s just an awesome teacher,” Harper told News 8.

Prince has been teaching for 15 years and has worked at T. J. Connor since 2020. She spoke to News 8 about the approach she takes in the classroom.

“It’s important to take care of their hearts first,” she said. “I always tell the kids, ‘I have to love you, keep you safe and then we can learn.’ Because if they don’t feel loved, don’t feel safe, they won’t feel comfortable taking risks.”

“She builds a classroom family. She loves the kids. She tells them that, and she gets them to work really hard. So, I think by creating an environment in the classroom that is safe and conducive to learning, the kids really do learn, and her academic results are outstanding too,” added Principal Daniel Murray.

You can watch New 8’s feature on Prince at rochesterfirst.com/news/goldenapple/congratulations-to-katie-prince/.



Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat: From Student to Head Mechanic, Chamot Keeps Wheatland-Chili Running

The road that Greg Chamot started down as a student at Wheatland-Chili has led him all the way

back here. Now the District’s head mechanic, he is helping steer the futures of new Wildcats.

During his time as a student, Chamot took the Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance program through Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education (CTE), paving the way for his future career. He was also a three-sport athlete, competing in cross country, swimming and track. But most importantly, he met his future wife, Nikole. The high school sweethearts now live in the District with their three young children.

After graduating in 2011, Chamot put Wheatland-Chili in the rearview mirror to attend Alfred State. Upon graduating from the college’s Heavy Equipment, Truck and Diesel Technician program

in 2013, he took a job at Jack’s Repair Service here in Scottsville and then spent some time as a mechanic for Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District. When the head mechanic position became available at Wheatland-Chili, he jumped at the opportunity.

“I knew it was a good position, and I was excited to work with the people that I grew up with,” he said.

Chamot wears many hats at Wheatland-Chili. On top of being the head mechanic, he fills in as a substitute bus driver and coaches varsity and modified swimming and modified track.

“I like getting to know the kids better. They don’t know me as a mechanic, but as their coach, we get to build relationships,” said Chamot.

As he helps keep the District’s buses running smoothly and guides student-athletes to success, Chamot’s journey has come full circle. His story is a testament to the strong foundation built at Wheatland-Chili.

PreK Celebrates Valentine's Day at Senior Center

PreK students and their friends at the Town of Wheatland Senior Center got together for an early Valentine's Day celebration. Students dropped by the senior center to spend some quality time the day before the holiday. The fun included Valentine's Day-themed crafts and games.



T. J. Connor Puts Gym Class on Ice

Third, fourth and fifth graders put on their helmets, laced up their skates and returned to the ice for gym class. They packed up and headed to Scottsville Ice Arena to hit the ice over two weeks in February. Whether they were skating for the first time or sharpening their skills, it was an icy adventure for all.



T. J. Connor Takes on Kindness Challenge

Kindness pays at T. J. Connor!

Students were challenged to perform 250 acts of kindness in the two weeks leading up to Valentine's Day. If they reached their goal, Principal Daniel Murray promised to dye his hair pink. As part of the challenge, students were given paper hearts. When they noticed an act of kindness, they wrote it down on a heart. Each student who demonstrated kindness was presented with an award.

Not only did they reach their goal, they far surpassed it, totaling 356 acts of kindness. Because students went above and beyond to show kindness, not only did Principal Murray dye his hair pink, but Assistant Principal Keara Coakley also got a colorful new hairdo during a special assembly on Valentine's Day.



A Powerful Lesson on Art and Activism

On February 4, coinciding with Black History Month, seniors attended “Nina Simone: Four Women” at Geva Theatre Center. The play explores how the iconic singer found her voice as a civil rights activist after the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Featuring some of her most popular civil rights anthems, the show takes its name from Simone’s song “Four Women.”



Following the performance, students took part in a talkback with two of the play’s actors as well as Sarah Collins Rudolph, a survivor of the bombing.

Musicians Earn Spots in All-County Band

Trumpeter Freddie Woerner and alto saxophonist Cora Baird have been honored by the Monroe County School Music Association (MCSMA).

Woerner, a sophomore, was chosen to perform with a select ensemble of band students from across Monroe County during the MCSMA Senior High All-County Music Festival at Roberts Wesleyan University on March 15. Baird, a junior, was designated an alternate.



Esports Club Levels Up

The Middle/High School Esports Club is boosting its game. Launched at the beginning of the 2023-24 school year for high school students, the club now has nearly 30 regular members, including eighth graders. In February, they began competing against Esports players from other school districts in video games including Rocket League, Fortnite and Minecraft. The virtual competitions are held through the High School Esports League (HSEL). Next, the club hopes to expand to include sports games like Madden NFL and NBA 2K.



Swavely Wins Section V Long Jump Title

Lillian Swavely soared to the top of the indoor track and field sectional finals. The senior competed in the long jump at the Section V Class B4 Indoor Track & Field Championships at Nazareth University on February 23. She came out in first place with a jump of 15 feet, 1 inch. Way to go, Lillian!



Ski Club Hits Swain, Holiday Valley

The Middle/High School Ski Club has returned to the slopes! With nearly 80 members this year, the club is one of the school's most popular after-school activities. They ski and snowboard at Swain Mountain every week and recently took a trip to Holiday Valley in Ellicottville.



Winter Pep Rally Brings the Spirit

The Middle/High School headed off to February break full of school spirit. On the Friday before break, students and staff packed the bleachers in the gym to cheer on the school's winter sports teams, who were brought down to the floor to be recognized. The festivities also included entrance music by the MS Marching Band, a performance of the National Anthem by the MS Chorus, and to cap things off, a scooter board relay.



Celebrating Senior Athletes!



Indoor Track & Field

(L to R) River Brandes, Dillon Nelson, Paris Williams Jr., Lillian Swavely and Camryn Limner



Boys Basketball

(L to R) Paris Williams Jr., Jackson Semmel, Benjamin Hebrock, Eric Russell, A'nari Trotter, Kiev Elzey and Leighton Williams Jr.



Cheerleading

Maddie LaVair



Swimming & Diving

(L to R) Sienna Mekker and Erin Hallock

2025-26 Year At-a-Glance

LEGEND

- No School for PreK-12 Students
- New Employee Orientation (1/2 Day)
- Conference Day; No School for PreK-12 Students
- First Day of School for PreK-12 Students
- Early Dismissal: Elem. (11:20 a.m.); Grade 6 (10:40 a.m.)
- School Reopens, Full-Day Session - All Students
- Regents & Local Exams; School in Session PreK-12
- Regents & Local Exams; School in Session PreK-6
- Last Day of School for Students
- Regents Rating Day; No School for PreK-12 Students

August

Aug. 25 (Mon) New Employee Orientation
 Aug. 27 (Wed) Conference Day*
 Aug. 28 (Thurs) Conference Day*

September

Sept. 1 (Mon) Labor Day
 Sept. 2 (Tues) Faculty & Staff Opening Day*
 Sept. 3 (Wed) School Opens, Full Day Session

October

Oct. 10 (Fri) Conference Day*
 Oct. 13 (Mon) Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day

November

Nov. 11 (Tues) Veterans Day
 Nov. 24-25 (Mon-Tues) Elem. Parent/Teacher Conferences
 Nov. 26-28 (Wed-Fri) Thanksgiving Recess

December

Dec. 5 (Fri) Elem. Parent/Teacher Conferences
 Dec. 22-31 (Mon-Wed) Holiday Recess

January

Jan. 1-2 (Thurs-Fri) Holiday Recess
 Jan. 5 (Mon) School Reopens
 Jan. 19 (Mon) Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 Jan. 20-23 (Tues-Fri) NYS Regents & Local Exams

February

Feb. 16 (Mon) Presidents Day
 Feb. 17-20 (Tues-Fri) Mid-Winter Recess

March

March 30-31 (Mon-Tues) Spring Recess

April

April 1-3 (Wed-Fri) Spring Recess
 April 24 (Fri) Conference Day*

May

May 21 (Thurs) Elem. Parent/Teacher Conferences
 May 22-25 (Fri-Mon) Memorial Day Recess

June

June 9-10 (Tues-Wed) NYS Regents Exams
 June 17-18 (Wed-Thurs) NYS Regents Exams
 June 19 (Fri) Juneteenth
 June 22-25 (Mon-Thurs) NYS Regents Exams
 June 23-25 (Tues-Thurs) Early Dismissal: Elem., Grade 6
 June 25 (Thurs) Last Day of School for Students
 June 26 (Fri) Regents Rating Day

* Conference Days
 Make-up days in order of need: May 22, April 3

JULY 2025							AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						
SEPTEMBER 2025							OCTOBER 2025						
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30													
JANUARY 2026							FEBRUARY 2026						
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MARCH 2026							APRIL 2026						
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31													

Wheatland-Chili Central School District

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Upcoming Events

March

10	BOE Meeting	7 p.m.
13	PTA Meeting	6:30 p.m.
20	BOE Visitation Day	
20	MS/HS Early Dismissal Drill	2 p.m.
20	TJC Early Dismissal Drill	2:50 p.m.
20	TJC Storytelling Club Performance	6:30 p.m.
21	Conference Day — No School for Students	
24	Audit Committee Meeting	6 p.m.
24	BOE Meeting	7 p.m.
26	Budget Outreach Meeting	7 p.m.
27	MS/HS Spring Musical	5 p.m.
28	MS/HS Spring Musical	7 p.m.
29	MS/HS Spring Musical	2 p.m.
31	Elementary Report Cards Mailed	

April

8-9	Gr. 3-5 ELA Assessments	
9-10	Gr. 3-5 ELA Assessments	
10	PTA Meeting	6:30 p.m.
11	MS/HS Report Cards Mailed	
14-18	Spring Recess — No School	
21	BOE Meeting	7 p.m.
29-30	Gr. 3-5 Math Assessments	
30-May 1	Gr. 6-7 Math Assessments	

WE'RE HIRING!

Join our team!



OPEN POSITIONS:

Bus Driver

School Secretary

Teachers — Permanent and Substitute

Teacher Aides — Permanent and Substitute

And more

Apply today at wheatlandchili.org