

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CITIZENSHIP • CHARACTER • EDUCATION • WISDOM • KNOWLEDGE • SCHOLARSHIP • SERVICE • INTEGRITY



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Williamson Central School District Community:

As we reflect on the first part of this school year, we are filled with gratitude for the collective spirit of excellence that defines our school. We continue to be inspired by the enthusiasm, dedication, and care that each of you—students, staff, families—brings to our community every day. It is through our shared commitment and strong sense of Marauder Pride that we are able to create an environment where teaching, learning, and well-being thrive.

We are incredibly proud of the academic achievements and the incredible effort that our students and teachers put forth. The commitment to excellence in the classroom continues to shine through, as our students engage deeply in their learning. It is heartening to see how the culture of care permeates every interaction, making our school not just a place for education but a place where each individual feels seen, heard, and valued.

Our school traditions are a testament to the strength of our community. Events this fall like Big Pumpkin Day, where students celebrate the fall season together, and the heartfelt observance of Veterans Day, remind us of the values of unity, respect, and gratitude. These traditions help foster a sense of belonging, as does the festive atmosphere of our holiday concerts, where students of all ages come together to showcase and celebrate their talents and joy. The Elementary School musical Finding Nemo Kids was simply outstanding, highlighting the creativity and teamwork of our youngest students. Watching them perform reminds us of the power of the arts to inspire, connect, and enrich our community.

We also celebrate a significant milestone with the substantial completion of our Capital Improvement Project. This development enhances our facilities and supports our mission of providing a dynamic and engaging learning environment for all students.

As we move further into the school year, we are excited to share our continued commitment to strengthening the foundational skills that are essential for student success. In the spirit of ensuring every student reaches their full potential, we are focusing on a “Back to Basics” approach in key areas such as reading and literacy, math programming, and Academic Intervention Support Services.

Reading and Literacy: We recognize the critical role that strong literacy skills play in a student’s overall academic journey. As such, literacy has been identified as an essential objective of the district and we are ensuring that science and evidence-based practices are the foundation of our literacy instruction.



Math Programming: Building a strong foundation in mathematics is equally important. We are currently exploring math programming options to ensure delivery of instruction that focuses on developing essential skills, from basic number sense to more complex problem-solving strategies. Whether it’s through hands-on activities, collaborative problem-solving, or individualized instruction, we are committed to fostering a deep understanding of math that will serve students throughout their academic careers.

Academic Intervention Support Services (AIS): Our Academic Intervention Support Services are designed to provide targeted assistance for students who demonstrate need for additional support. Whether through small group instruction or one-on-one sessions, our team of interventionists are working closely with students to address specific areas of need.

None of these successes would be possible without the collaborative efforts of our students, families and staff. As we move into the New Year, we are excited to build on this foundation and continue to nurture the pride and sense of community that define us.

With Marauder Pride,
E. Bridget Ashton



Greetings From The Elementary School



Williamson Elementary School has had a great start to the 24-25 school year...so many wonderful things are happening here this year!

On November 26th, DownBeat Percussion visited the elementary school. This group is the official drumline group for the Buffalo Bills. Our 4th graders were able to join the middle school assembly to see them perform and then following that performance, the group paraded the bus loop for the entire Elementary School to enjoy.

The Elementary School celebrated Geography Awareness Week in November. Classrooms learned about maps and other geographical features throughout the month. In addition, Journey Bear returned to the school and visited each classroom. While visiting classrooms students were able to share information they had learned about a particular state. And once again students were able to wear shirts and hats from different geographical locations.

The month of December kicked off with the spectacular Elementary musical Finding Nemo Kids under the direction of Mrs. Byron and Miss Wander. There were three performances the first weekend of the month and the students did an AMAZING job! Congratulations to all the participants and a big thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped to make this a wonderful experience for our students!



Miss Ellen Saxby
Elementary School Principal

Middle School News

As we approach our winter holiday break, it is a time to reflect on the close of 2024 and our year thus far. The Middle School continues to be a hub of activity. The Middle School has made a commitment to Project Based Learning, which enhances real world skills and the students' investment in their own education.

In classes, our teachers have worked to emphasize 'hands on' learning and activities. Our sixth grade class took a trip to Mars! This field trip brought students to the Rochester Museum and Science Center, where they explored interactive exhibits on topics like space, biology, and technology. During the trip, they also take part in an immersive virtual experience that simulates a journey to Mars, allowing them to explore the planet and learn about space exploration in a hands-on way. Students each had roles to play as Mission Command took them to the red planet and back.

Fifth grade students also engaged in a fun and unique Project-Based Learning event. In an effort to hone and apply their math skills, all students were given a preselected menu of breakfast items to order. After making their selections and ordering, students were required to add the entire cost and determine the tax as well as the percentage and dollar amount of the tip. Students applied their knowledge of adding, percentages and making change. At the end of the project, they had a delightful pancake breakfast!

Prior to our holiday break, our 7th and 8th grade teams will be exploring individualized learning. The 7th graders will be focusing on My School, My Town, My Community. Our 8th grade students will be bringing their favorite recipes from home and creating their own recipe book. They may also be creating some delicious dishes.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rockow and Mr. Lock are working together to create a new Weight Room Club. The club will prioritize teaching students the fundamentals of weightlifting. The club will provide guidance on proper lifting techniques, ensuring that students develop safe and effective exercise habits. This initiative is designed not only to improve physical fitness but also to promote discipline and confidence. By combining nutrition, science, and fitness, these activities create a holistic learning experience that encourages students to explore new interests while staying healthy.

The Middle School has made it a priority to enhance our students' learning experience by placing a value on the application of skills. Our students are active participants in their own education!



Ms. Kathryn Taylor,
Middle School Principal



Williamson Central School Annual Census

All District residents should complete this census, even if you do not currently have school-aged children.

You can complete the survey online by going to www.williamsoncentral.org, clicking the Community tab and then selecting the "WCS Census 2024-25" page, or by using the QR code below.

You can also complete the paper form on the back of this page and mail it to the District:

WCS District Office
P.O. Box 900, Williamson, NY 14589



Williamson Central School Kindergarten/UPK Parent Information Night

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the ES Library

Please call Dawn Everhart at the District Office (315) 589-9661 to ensure you are on the mailing list.
Registration packets will be sent out on February 1, 2025.



**WILLIAMSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CENSUS FORM 2024-2025**

You may complete this online at www.williamsoncentral.org/census

FATHER/MALE GUARDIAN LIVING IN HOME
(Circle one)

MOTHER/FEMALE GUARDIAN LIVING IN HOME
(Circle one)

Name _____
First Last

Name _____
First Last

PO Box (if applicable) House Number & Street Lot Number

Town Zip Code Telephone Number

() Check here if there are no children under the age of 18 at this residence.

CHILDREN		Male/	Birth Date			Grade in
Last Name	First Name	Female	Month	Day	Year	Sept

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A DISABILITY? YES NO

IF YES, EXPLAIN BRIEFLY.

WILL YOUR CHILD BE ATTENDING A PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL SCHOOL? YES NO
IF YES, PLEASE LIST NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL STUDENT WILL ATTEND.

WILL YOUR CHILD BE HOME SCHOOLED? YES NO

ARE YOU MOVING OUT OF THE WILLIAMSON SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1st?
YES NO

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO RELOCATE WITHIN THE DISTRICT, INDICATE ADDRESS OF NEW RESIDENCE.

House Number and Street Town Zip Code

DO YOU HAVE A COMPUTER AT YOUR RESIDENCE? YES NO

IF YES, DO YOU HAVE INTERNET SERVICE AVAILABLE ON THIS COMPUTER? YES NO

High School News



As we welcome the New Year, we are so grateful for the moments we've shared and the accomplishments we've celebrated together at the High School.

Our athletes had an outstanding fall sports season! Several Cross Country runners qualified for the State Championships, showcasing their dedication and hard work. A special congratulations goes to our Girls Soccer Team for winning the Sectional Championship—an incredible achievement reflecting their teamwork, perseverance, and skill. We are so proud of all our athletes for representing Williamson with excellence this season!

On November 1, our students participated in the Annual Day of Service, spreading kindness and making a positive impact throughout the community. They completed meaningful projects at local organizations, including Pines of Peace and the Come-Unity Center, building connections and giving back to those around us.

In early December, our Select Choir gave a beautiful performance at the Senior Citizens Luncheon, bringing holiday cheer and joy to the community. Additionally, five choir members were selected to perform in the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's Holiday Pops concert at Kodak Hall in the Eastman Theatre from December 20-22.

We also celebrated the induction of 14 students into the National Honor Society, alongside new members of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. These students exemplify the values of scholarship, leadership, service, and character, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

This year so far has been full of remarkable accomplishments for our students, staff, and families. Thank you for being such an essential part of this wonderful community. We appreciate your ongoing support and wish you all a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy start to 2025!



Dr. Robert Snyder
High School Principal



Transportation News

The start of the 2024-2025 school year has been a busy one! We are feeling especially grateful so far to the substitute drivers who have taken on regular bus routes. Substitute driving is a challenging but rewarding job and substitute drivers are always needed! Consider being a substitute driver — you don't have to work every day, but there are many opportunities to drive. Driving is a split shift, so you have time to run errands during the middle of the day, and you can even work around part-time employment. Some drivers monitor at a school, or work in a school kitchen. A typical morning is 6:30AM to 9AM and an afternoon is 1:45PM to 4PM. There are also many opportunities to drive sports and field trips. Starting pay for a substitute driver is \$22.07/hour.

Please call the Transportation Department (315) 589-6901 if you are interested in getting your CDL (we can train you!), or if you already have a CDL and want to start working, we can help you through the process.

Some tips for Bus Safety...

At the Bus Stop:

- Be ready and waiting at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled bus time
- Stand at least 5 giant steps away from the curb or roadside
- Wait for the bus to completely stop before approaching it
- Never cross behind a bus
- Please put your phones away and pay attention to your bus driver

On the Bus:

- Face forward
- Stay in your seat
- Keep the aisle clear
- Use the handrail to avoid slipping or falling
- Talk quietly...it's okay to talk, just don't yell or play loud music
- Listen to your driver

Please help us keep our students safe! Have a great holiday season!

Vicky Pascarella, *Transportation Director*



Curriculum Update

Strengthening Literacy Together: A Spotlight on Our District's Approach

As partners in your student's education, we are excited to highlight a few examples demonstrating the incredible work being done within our instructional program to support strong literacy skills across all grade levels. From engaging classroom activities to technology integration, we are dedicated to helping every student become a confident and capable reader. Literacy is the foundation of lifelong learning. Together, we can inspire a passion for reading and writing that extends beyond the classroom.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- Science instruction at the Elementary School supports literacy by focusing on developing students' vocabulary and background knowledge.
- Within our science curriculum, students are learning content-specific (Tier 3) and cross-content academic (Tier 2) vocabulary.
- Teachers are identifying vocabulary terms from each Mystery Science lesson and explicitly teaching them to students during or following lessons.
- Teachers aim to increase student understanding and use of science vocabulary by creating science word walls in classrooms.
- Teachers are also building their students' background knowledge using Scholastic News magazines, Mystery Science mini-lessons, read-alouds, and extension activities. Students are enjoying observing, experimenting, and working with their peers to learn more about the world around them!
- In Physical Education classes, students have opportunities to connect with "words of the week." Students think about the word, talk with their peers, ask questions, and apply the vocabulary word to movements and activities. The vocabulary words are posted on the wall and referred to throughout each unit.

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Students participate in various activities focused on strengthening their understanding and use of social studies vocabulary.
- Teachers integrate technology platforms, such as Padlet, designed to support the development of vocabulary lists that students can create collaboratively.
- In some classrooms, students are using the Frayer Model to break down vocabulary.
- Across all grades, students are analyzing primary and secondary sources, making connections, and deepening comprehension, which is leading to richer class discussions.

HIGH SCHOOL:

- Math teachers are utilizing various strategies to support comprehension and vocabulary.
- Students use the Frayer Model for vocabulary, working collaboratively to define new words and identify examples, non examples, and characteristics.
- Students analyze word parts when introduced to new vocabulary.
- Teachers and students create word walls to make connections between words and mathematical concepts.
- Teachers embed explicit instruction for breaking down word problems in order to enhance comprehension application of mathematical concepts.

Rachel Liberatore

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Capital Project Updates

Coming Soon: Capital Outlay Project

A capital outlay project refers to expenditures for a project with a total cost of no more than \$100,000 in physical assets, such as construction, renovation, or major improvements to our buildings and facilities. In the context of schools, capital outlay projects might include:

- Renovating existing buildings or facilities
- Upgrading heating, cooling, and electrical systems
- Refurbishing gymnasiums, sports fields, or other recreational spaces
- Adding safety features such as new fire alarms or security systems

Earlier this year, the district made official submission to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) for a Capital Outlay project to refinish the wood floor in our high school gymnasium. This important project aims to ensure the safety, functionality, and aesthetic quality of our gymnasium, which is central to both athletic events and school activities. Our submission for this work was approved and we anticipate the HS gymnasium floor being refinished during the month of April 2025, including the week of Spring Break. The district will coordinate alternate locations for PE classes and athletics throughout the month of April to accommodate for completion of this project.



Capital Improvement Update

Base contract work for the Capital Improvement Project has been substantially completed as 2024 draws to an end. Contractors are now addressing change order work, punch list items and compiling closeout documents. Finishing touches on the MS mezzanine, MS hallway panels and plumbing upgrades are on deck and nearing completion.

These projects will continue to shape our school's environment in positive ways. We greatly appreciate your patience and support as we work toward completing these essential upgrades.



PICTURE THIS!



Middle School Harvest Festival



Big Pumpkin Day



High School Art Class



High School Pep Rally



Old English W Awards



Elementry School Fire Prevention Day



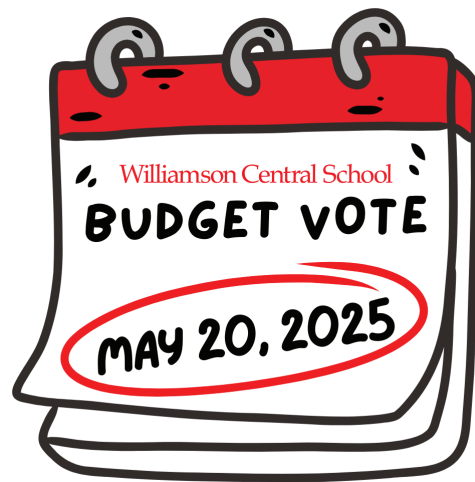
Elementary School Performance



Holiday Fun at the Middle School



Middle School Veterans Day Celebration



Be prepared to come and vote on May 20th at the Middle School!

Please join us on the following dates to learn more about the 2025-2026 School Budget:

- **January 8** - Budget Update
- **January 28** - Budget Update/ Preliminary Budget Forecast
- **February 12** - Budget Presentation
- **March 4** - Budget Presentation - Approve Propositions
- **March 19** - Budget Work Session at 5:30PM
- **April 9** - Budget Presentation
- **April 23** - Budget Presentation - Adoption of Budget by BOE
- **May 7** - Budget Hearing - Meet the Candidates
- **May 20** - Budget Vote - 1:00-9:00 p.m., MS Cafeteria

More information is available on our website at williamsoncentral.org/district/budget.

Williamson Central School



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williamsoncentral.org

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