



Inspire-Cultivate-Empower

Whitesboro High School

6000 State Route 291
Marcy, New York 13403-3031
315 266-3200
<http://www.wboro.org>

Dave Cognetti, Principal
Katherine Hobaica, Assistant Principal - Grades 9-10
Matthew Lee, Assistant Principal - Grades 11-12

September - October 2025

From The Principal's Desk

As we prepare to welcome students back for a new school year at Whitesboro High School, I want to take a moment to share my excitement and gratitude. It is a true privilege to serve as your principal and to continue working alongside such a dedicated community of educators, students, and families.

This year, we are placing a strong emphasis on building and sustaining a culture of excellence—a commitment that runs through every goal we set, every expectation we communicate, and every experience we provide for our students. Our district mission to inspire, cultivate, and empower all learners to maximize their potential will continue to guide our work. At the high school, that means ensuring our students not only achieve academically, but also grow into respectful, well-rounded individuals who are prepared to thrive in life beyond graduation.

We will be intentional in aligning our procedures, programs, and daily practices to reflect this commitment. From the classroom to the athletic field, from extracurricular activities to the hallways, our focus is on helping students set high standards for themselves—and supporting them every step of the way to meet and exceed those goals.

As always, student voice will remain a cornerstone of our work. We will continue seeking feedback and ideas from our students to shape programs and opportunities that reflect their passions and interests.

I'm looking forward to a year filled with growth, collaboration, and success. Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we'll make 2025–2026 a school year defined by purpose, pride, and excellence.

Sincerely,
Dave Cognetti

Regular Attendance Key to Success in School

In order to be successful in meeting the high expectations set down by the State Education Department and our local school district for graduation, it is imperative that students come to school on a regular basis and maximize their time in school for learning. There is a positive correlation between regular attendance at school and academic success. The business world demands that employees be at work daily and on time. Excessive absenteeism and for tardiness to work often results in the loss of jobs. Our school has an obligation to expect regular attendance and punctuality to school and class. Students have a responsibility to come to school on a daily basis and to be on time to school and to all of their classes. Parents have a responsibility to see that their children meet these obligations.

The vast majority of student discipline referrals at Whitesboro High School are related to truancies and tardies. Improvements in those areas will allow students to perform better in the classroom. There is a direct correlation between poor student attendance and course failures. We ask for your cooperation. Your child should attend school daily. Whenever possible, medical and dental appointments should be scheduled outside of the school day. Students requiring regular appointments during the school day should have these scheduled as to avoid missing the same class each time. We need to maximize the time we have in school for instructional purposes. All district protocols for attendance remain the same for in-person learning.

Student Drop-Off Areas

Students Drop off areas are located in the student parking lot near the Auditorium and at the end of the North Drive near the faculty parking lot. Signs are posted at both entrances. However, the parking lot does get congested as buses arrive and depart between 7:10-7:15 AM and between 2:00-2:15 PM.

In the morning, it is important for students to be in class when the 7:30 bell rings to avoid referrals for tardiness. In order to ensure they are on time for class, parents should drop off students no later than 7:25 AM. You are also reminded that the Auditorium doors do close promptly at 7:30 AM and after that time all students must report to the attendance office in the North Drive to sign in and receive a pass to class.

At the end of the school day, buses depart at 2:15. There is congestion between 2:10 and 2:20 as all of our buses and student drivers attempt to exit the parking lots at the same time. Parents are encouraged to wait until after 2:20 to arrive at which time both bus circles are accessible and can be utilized for pickup. Students are free to wait for 10-15 minutes in the Auditorium lobby, Gym lobby, or cafeteria lobby until their parents arrive in these pick up circles.

Remember, passing a school bus while it is loading or unloading in NY State will result in a ticket and fine. All buses are equipped with traffic cameras to protect our students.

Late Buses

Late buses are available for those students who stay after regular school hours for remedial help or co-curricular activities Monday - Thursday. There are no late buses on Friday or on a day before a vacation. Students should be under the supervision of a staff member during this time period, from 2:20 to 3:20 p.m., and need to have a late bus pass signed by a staff member in order to be allowed to ride the bus. Student athletes, waiting for their coach to arrive to begin practice, should report to the cafeteria no later than 2:20 p.m. unless they are with another teacher for extra help or at a club meeting. The late bus departs from the High School at 3:20 p.m. and goes to the Middle School to pick up students. There, students may have to transfer to other buses depending on where they live. During the 2024-25 school year, we repeatedly had issues with students who wished to stay after school to socialize with friends or "hang out" on campus. Students should only remain on campus after school if they are meeting with a teacher, club advisor, or coach.

Handicapped Accessibility

Your Whitesboro High School is handicapped accessible. Two elevators are available; one is located at the south side of the high school adjacent to the gymnasium and the other at the north side of the building across from the auditorium. Handicapped parking areas are located in the circle in front of the high school, in the north drive across from the Attendance Office, and in the parking area east of the Attendance Office. All bathrooms in the building are handicapped accessible. Any further questions concerning handicapped accessibility needs should be directed to the school administration.

Dress Code Helps Maintain Quality School Environment

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting. A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up, and nails, shall:

1. Be safe, appropriate, and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
2. Recognize that extremely brief garments including but not limited to tube tops, net tops, halter tops, plunging necklines (front and/or back) and see-through garments are not appropriate. (This includes low-cut pants and abbreviated tops which expose the midriff area.)
3. Ensure that underwear is completely covered with outer clothing.
4. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
5. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
6. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs, and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
7. Not include the wearing of hats or other headgear in the building during regular school hours except for medical or religious purposes.

If the manner of dress is such that it violates these standards, the student will be asked to change, and, if necessary, be sent home to do so. The student will be responsible for missed work as a result of leaving school. If there is any doubt about the appropriateness of clothing, it should not be worn. If you have any questions, please contact an administrator.

Main Entrance

For the safety and security of all members of our educational community, we utilize one main entrance to the high school, located on the north side of the building by the cafeteria. Buses drop off students in the morning on the circle in front of the building and on the north side circle drive. Students and staff may utilize the front doors by the auditorium and the cafeteria doors on the north side to enter the building until 7:30 a.m. After that time, all entrance doors are locked for the remainder of the day except for the entrance door leading to the cafeteria on the north side. Afternoon buses pick up from the same locations as they dropped off students in the morning. The attendance office is located just inside the doors leading to the cafeteria.

All visitors should enter the building through the main entrance located on the north side of the building by the cafeteria. Visitors and handicapped parking areas are designated in a lot off the north circle drive. Visitors are expected to sign in at the Attendance Office where they will receive a guest pass. Upon exiting the building, guests are to again report to the Attendance Office and sign out.

As an additional security measure, we have a second set of doors just beyond the attendance office. Similar to other buildings in the District, this allows our attendance clerk to control access to the building via a buzzer which unlocks the door. We appreciate your cooperation and patience with this procedure.

Excuses

When a student has been absent from or tardy to school, the parent or guardian must provide the school with a written note explaining the reason. Students should present this note to their first period teacher the day they return from an absence. Written excuses should indicate the date, the reason for the absence or tardiness, and be signed by the parent or guardian. In cases of repeated or long-term absence, a note from a medical doctor may be required.

Early Release From School

To be release form school for any reason, a student must bring a parent's or guardian's note on the day he/she needs to be excused. This excuse should be given to the attendance office clerk before first period. A student may not leave the school without prior permission from the attendance clerk and must sign out at the attendance office. Students will only be released to their parent, guardian, or some other adult designated by the parent or guardian. If students drive, they will be release only with the parent's or guardian's permission. In order to be released due to sickness during the school day, students must report to the school nurse to be evaluated. If, in the nurse's judgement, the student needs to be sent home, the parent will be contacted for permission prior to allowing the student to leave. The student still must sign out from the attendance office.

Thank you for your cooperation in assisting us to provide the best education possible for your child, starting with daily attendance.

70 Students Named as AP Scholars

Whitesboro High School is proud to announce that 70 students have been named by the College Board as AP Scholars. Students achieving this status must have received scores of 3 or higher on 3 or more Advanced Placement Exams. Of these students, 10 qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor category, while 18 were awarded the highest possible title of the AP Scholar with Distinction.

For the 2025 AP cohort, 78% of total AP students scored a 3 or higher on their respective exams, with an average score of 3.4.

The students receiving these honors are listed below:

AP Scholar - Granted to student who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. These students are Nicholas Allen, Kaelyn Barry, Carmella Chrisman, Madeline Clancy, Lucas Clausen, D'Andre DeJesus, Michael Domser, Joseph Drager, Scott Eberley, Makenna Engelhart, Memphis Ferguson, Savannah Ferguson, Chayse Fischer, Abigail Gagnon, Emma Garramone, Kevin George, Edin Hadzimujic, Trevor Heitz, Avery Heretz, Michael Hill, Ariana Johnson, Kristina Kachanovich, Nicolas Lupia, Katie Martin, Genevieve Michel, Amar Miljkovic, Angelina Osilovskiy, Shlok Patel, Tyler Quackenbush, Emran Rizvanovic, Zana Seferagic, Amelia Sheldon, Tyler Sojda, Olivia Strife, Sydney Strife, Adeline Tibbitts, Tyler Vanno, Connor Wiggins, Brennan Withers, Benjamin Zyskowski.

AP Scholar with Honor - Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are Kathleen Gaffney, Samara Giorgi, Delaney Godkin, Shawn Hajdasz, Katherine Humphrey, Avery Klein, Gabriella Kuliesius, Ella Lachevet, Andrey Sidorevich, Natalie Terebey.

AP Scholar with Distinction - Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are Hailey Attilio, Gavyn Burgdoff, Briana Finch, Kaidan Fischer, Erin Gaffney, Anthony Getz, Erin Howlett, Kayden Krecidlo, Adeline Melnick, Sawyer Michel, Sarah Mullen, Carter Musa, Reid O'Bryan, Anthony Tobiasz, Tiffany Warner, Matthew Wilkosz, Matthew Yardley.

Congratulations to all our AP students! Your outstanding results are a reflection of your growth, dedication, and hard work this year. We are proud of you!

Whitesboro High School Adds Six New Courses for 2025-26

Advanced Digital Photography (MVCC)
AP Pre-Calculus
Foundations of Sports Management (MVCC)
Introduction to Cyber Security (MVCC)
French Dual Credit 301/302 (MVCC)
Spanish Dual Credit 301/302 (MVCC)

Class of 2026

Cap and Gown information will be coming soon. For all information related to the senior year, students should join the Class of 2026 Google classroom and turn their notifications "on". For questions or concerns please contact your class advisor Mrs. Corr (jcorr@wboro.org) or Mrs. Williams (nwilliams@wboro.org). For date changes, we will send out information via Class of 2026 Google classroom and Parent Square.

- Nav's Popcorn - delivery October 6, 2025
- Senior Courtyard picture - Friday, October 17, 2025
- Nothing Bundt Cakes - delivery November 4, 2025
- Krispie Kreme- delivery November 4, 2025
- Senior Ball - Delta Marriott - June 6, 2026 - 6-9PM
- Graduation Rehearsal - Thursday, June 18, 2026
- Graduation-Adirondack Bank Center-Saturday-June 20, 2026

More information related to fundraising will be distributed.

Welcome New Staff

Amanda Aiello - Nurse
Garrett Hutchins - School Counselor
Dean Sokolowski - Teacher Assistant
Megan Timian - School Counselor

Surveillance Cameras

The Whitesboro Central School District promotes students, staff, and visitor safety in all District facilities, grounds, and buses. In an attempt to ensure a safe and effective learning environment, the Board promotes the use of surveillance cameras when necessary in all District facilities, grounds, and buses. Surveillance cameras will be used in public areas and other non-public areas, except areas such as restrooms and locker rooms where there is reasonable expectation of privacy.

Curriculum Night

Our annual Curriculum Night is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 24, 2025**, beginning at 6:30 PM.

Cafeteria News

For the upcoming 2025-2026 school year, the Whitesboro CSD's Food Service Department is pleased to announce that it will continue to operate under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) which means all students enrolled within the district can receive breakfast and lunch FREE of charge!

Families with children of the district do not need to fill out a new 2025-2026 household income eligibility form but are encouraged to do so to help determine eligibility for any additional State and Federal program benefits that the district may qualify for. If interested in submitting a form, please visit our website at www.wboro.org/foodservice or call the food service office at 315-266-3315. In addition, an application will be mailed out to each household at the start of school and will be available at the main office anytime throughout the school year.

Beyond FREE meals, students will have the option each day to purchase milk, extras, along with a variety of healthy snacks and/or a la carte items offered during each meal period. In order to receive any of these additional items, students will need to have money available on their meal accounts or pay cash at the time of purchase. NO CHARGING to the student's meal account will be permitted without sufficient funds available.

For any further questions you may have, please feel free to contact the food service department at 315-266-3315. Thank you and we look forward to a new and exciting school year!

Yearbook Information

The Whitesboro High School Yearbook is an 8.5 x 11-inch, hardback, full-color publication. Yearbooks can be purchased through our publisher's website, <http://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1053950/whitesborohs> or by scanning the QR code below. Yearbooks increase in price as the year continues, so order early for the best price.

Seniors: Portraits are due by Friday, October 31, 2025. All photos will be submitted using the Jostens® Photo Share site this year. To access the submission site, visit <https://photos.jostens.com/TNCWRL>. If you hire our photographer, DeNicola Photography, your photograph will be automatically submitted to the yearbook staff. If you use another photographer, please share with them how to submit your senior's portrait. It is recommended that photographs be taken from the waist or chest up, as full-body photos often do not reproduce well in the yearbook.

ORDER NOW



SCAN HERE

Underclass photos will be taken during English classes on the following dates: **9th Grade - Wednesday, October 22nd; 10th Grade - Thursday, October 23rd and 11th Grade - Friday, October 24th.** Order forms with pricing information will be sent home with students the week before. For more information, visit our website: <https://www.wboro.org/Domain/807> OR contact hsyearbook@wboro.org.

NASPHSAA Announces School of Excellence Winners for 2024-2025

Whitesboro High School is recognized as a 2024-2025 Scholar-Athlete School of Excellence Winner. The New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Inc. (NYSPHSAA) announces its 2024-2025 Scholar-Athlete School of Excellence Award winners. The purpose of the School of Excellence Awards is to unite varsity coaches in challenging their teams to achieve a statewide academic honor. "The School of Excellence Awards highlight the best student-athletes in New York State" said Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director. (For member schools to be honored for their commitment to academic as well as athletics is a testament to the outstanding leadership and student-athletes we have in this state." To earn the School of Excellence Award, 75% of a school's varsity teams must qualify and receive the Scholar-Athlete team award. At Whitesboro High School, 94% of our Varsity teams met the criteria.

Student Driving/Parking Information

Information on registering vehicles has been sent home to students in grades 11 and 12. Students have the ability to complete the required paperwork and register their vehicles prior to the start of the school year. Student driving is a privilege and eligible students are expected to follow traffic laws and Whitesboro High School procedures. Students in grades 9 and 10 are not permitted to register vehicles or drive to school under any circumstance. If you have any questions, contact the Assistant Principals' Office.

Whitesboro Central School Board of Education

The Whitesboro Board of Education is committed to striving for higher student achievement in all of our academic and related program offerings. The Board has worked hard to allocate appropriate resources that will allow the school district to pursue the goal of having all students graduate career, college and life ready. Please review the information on this page and the following page to help you better understand the role and organizational structure of the Board of Education. It is the hope of each school board member that our students enjoy a positive learning environment throughout their school experience.

As the Whitesboro Board of Education, we welcome parents, students, staff members, community residents and other interested persons to our meetings. We appreciate your interest in and concern for our school system. The Board can better represent its constituents when members of the community take the time to observe the Board in action, express opinions and ask questions.

What is the Board of Education?

The Board is the official policy-making body of the school district. The Board is composed of seven members, elected by the public, who serve three-year terms of office. Board of Education members receive no paid compensation for their services.

What are the responsibilities of the Board?

- Establish District policies • Identify District philosophy and direction • Develop an annual budget for voter approval • Act on the Superintendent’s recommendations regarding personnel matters • Review programs and instructional materials.

No person or group of persons acts in the name of the Board. All motions require a majority vote before the Board can act. A Board member acts in an official capacity only during an official Board meeting. The Board employs a Superintendent of Schools as the Chief Executive Officer of the school district. The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the District and administration of Board policies, programs and plans for Board action.

How are Board Meeting conducted?

Board of Education Members:

- Mr. Brian McQueen, President
- Mr. Steven Farr, Vice President
- Mr. Michael Head
- Dr. Jonathan Henderson
- Mrs. Cheryl LaValley
- Mr. Thomas Schoen, Jr.
- Dr. Steven Szatko

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Quorum Check
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance
- 4. Public Comment
- 5. President’s Report
- 6. Consent Agenda
- 7. Superintendent’s Reports and Presentations

- 8. Old Business
- 9. New Business
- 10. Discussion
- 11. Public Comment
- 12. Executive Order
- 13. Adjournment

If I attend a Board Meeting, must I stay until the end?

How long you stay is completely up to you. You may stay for as much time as you would like.

Can the public speak at Board meetings?

Normally, the Board will allow opportunities for the public to speak, both at the beginning (on agenda items only), and at the end on any item you wish to bring to the Board. You will be asked to state your name and address before speaking. Visitor comments will be limited to three minutes each. The President will curtail discussion on a topic to ensure that others have an opportunity to speak and that there is sufficient time to consider all agenda items. The Board of Education members will not engage in dialogue with the public during this time.

Comments relative to personnel or students are inappropriate to address in an open session and will not be allowed.

What is Executive Session?

Occasionally, it is necessary for the Board to conduct a discussion on a confidential matter which, under State Education guidelines, requires a “closed” or executive session. Such topics could include personnel matters involving a specific person, negotiation strategies, building rental or property acquisition. Although these discussions are not open to the public, any action on an executive session item must be taken in open public session. Executive sessions are usually held before or near the end of meetings. Only items which fall in the executive category can be discussed during such a session.

When and where does the Board of Education meet?

The Whitesboro Central School Board of Education meets at 7:00 p.m., unless noted otherwise. Meetings are held at the Administration Building at 65 Oriskany Boulevard in Whitesboro, or at one of the school buildings in the District. Please visit www.wboro.org/boemeeting for the complete meeting schedule.

Do you have a concern?

The Board encourages parents and community members who have a concern about their children’s education or other school-related problems to try to resolve them first at the level most directly involved; the classroom teacher or the building principal.

If your issue remains unresolved, you may contact the assistant superintendent or superintendent for their assistance.

Parent Update: Internet-Enabled Device Ban - Effective September 1, 2025

Dear Parents And Guardians,

Beginning September 1, 2025, a new state law will prohibit the use of internet-enabled devices during the school day in all New York State public schools. This legislation, signed by Governor Kathy Hochul, applies to any device capable of connecting to the internet and accessing online content or social media.

At Whitesboro High School, students who bring these devices to school will be expected to store these devices in their lockers during the school day. If a student needs to place a phone call, they may use the student phones available in either the Main Office or the Assistant Principal's Office.

To reach your child during the school day or relay a message to them, parents and guardians should use the following contact numbers:

- **Main Office/Principal - 315 266-3210**
- **Assistant Principals/Grades 9-12 - 315 266-3228**
- **Attendance Office - 315 266-3233**
- **Guidance Office - 315 266-3240**
- **Athletic Director - 315 266-3215**
- **School Nurse - 315 266-3214**

Daily Announcements are posted on <http://www.wboro.org> High School website

School Hours: 7:30 AM - 3:20 PM

Disciplinary action for violations of this policy will be handled in accordance with our existing practices. These procedures are outlined in the Student/Parent Handbook under "Whitesboro High School Policy on School Discipline." Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe and distraction-free learning environment.

Message from the Assistant Principals

Dear Whitesboro High School Students and Families,

We hope this message finds you enjoying a safe, relaxing, and well-deserved summer break. As we prepare to welcome students back for the 2025–2026 school year, we want to extend our sincere excitement to each of you. Whether you're returning for another year or joining us for the first time, we are thrilled to have you as part of our school community.

Whitesboro High School is more than just a place for learning—it's a place where students grow, build friendships, explore their interests, and prepare for their futures. We are proud to offer 27 clubs and organizations for students to get involved in, including our newest additions: Esports and Mock Trial. There's truly something for everyone, and we encourage all students to find a way to connect beyond the classroom.

We also believe strongly in open communication and partnership with families. To help keep you informed and engaged, we will be sending out a weekly newsletter through ParentSquare, highlighting important dates, events, and updates happening at Whitesboro High School.

Welcome back—we can't wait to see all the great things this school year will bring! Go Blue!

Warmly,
Mrs. Hobaica and Dr. Lee
Assistant Principals
Whitesboro High School

WHITESBORO HIGH SCHOOL

September

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 Labor Day	2 Superintendent's Conference Day	3 Superintendent's Conference Day	4 First Day of School for Students	5	6 ACT @ other area HS
7	8 HS Class Meetings Aud./7:30-10:30 AM	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12 Registration Deadline for 10/18 ACT	13 SAT @ other area HS
14	15	16 BOE Meeting Admin. Bldg./7:00 PM	17	18 Title 1 Meeting HSLibrary/6:30 PM	19 RegistrationDeadline for 10/4SAT	20
21	22 Autumn Begins	23	24 High School Curriculum Night 6:30 PM	25	26	27 HS Mathletics Oriskany 8:30 AM
28	29	30				

2025

WHITESBORO HIGH SCHOOL

October

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2	3	4 SAT@ other area HS
5	6	7 BOE Meeting Deerfield/7:00 PM	8	9	10 Superintendent's Conference Day NO SCHOOL	11
12	13 Columbus Day NO SCHOOL	14	15	16	17 HS Progress Reports Issued Senior Courtyard Photo/7:45 AM Blue & White Parade	18 PSAT, Whitesboro HS ACT @ other area HS Powderpuff Football Chiz Frye/6:30 PM
BLUE & WHITE WEEK 10/14 – 10/18						
19	20	21	22 Freshman Yearbook Pictures	23 Sophomore Yearbook Pictures Optimist Club "Collage Concert" HS Aud./7:00 PM	24 Junior Yearbook Pictures Registration Deadline for 11/18 SAT	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween Senior Yearbook Pictures Due	

2025