

District Office

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wheatlandchili.org

Stephen J. Kenny, Ed.D. Superintendent

October 9, 2025

Dear Wheatland-Chili Families,

Fall is officially here! The nights are cooler, the days are shorter, and the leaves are beginning to change. We have just wrapped up our fifth week of the 2025–26 school year, and it is a great time to reflect on the start to the school year. To begin with, I want to thank you once again for sending your children to school ready to learn and grow. We know the beginning of a new school year can be a bit stressful, and we truly appreciate your partnership in making this transition smooth and successful for our students. Your support with our new internet-enabled device policy has been incredibly helpful. Thanks to your cooperation, we have been able to meet new legislative requirements with minimal disruption to learning, and our students are enjoying face-to-face interactions during their lunch periods and throughout the day.

School Safety and Communication

Throughout September, we conducted important school safety drills to ensure our students are learning in a safe and responsive environment. A key part of maintaining safety is strong communication between home and school. The District uses several consistent channels to keep families informed:

- **District Communication Page**: Regular updates are posted here to ensure families have access to the latest information.
- Social Media: Follow the District on Facebook and Instagram for daily posts and timely updates.
- **Middle/High School Announcements**: Families can check the <u>electronic announcements</u> on the Middle/High School webpage for school-specific news.
- **ParentSquare**: This remains our primary communication platform for direct messages, alerts, and updates.

On Thursday, October 9th, all parents registered with ParentSquare should have received text and phone call notification reminding families that there is no school for students on Friday, October 10th and Monday, October 13th. If you did not receive these alerts please contact the district Communication Specialist, Evan Mikoll at Evan_Mikoll@wheatlandchili.org.

Sports Spectators

We are more than halfway through our fall sports season, and our students have been giving their all on our athletic fields, courts, and cross-country courses. Unfortunately, I need to share some negative experiences that our Girls JV and Varsity Volleyball teams experienced. During multiple away matches, our athletes were subjected to racist taunts from opposing fans. Our coaches and athletes responded with incredible poise and self-control. After meeting with the team, it was heartbreaking to hear that this was not the first time that our student athletes have encountered such taunts and behavior. At Wheatland-Chili, we are committed to creating a welcoming and respectful environment for all students. I want all of school community members to know that racist comments and actions have no place in our community

and will not be tolerated. If a spectator or player engages in this type of behavior they will be immediately asked to leave the District premises and not return.

National School Board Recognition Week

National School Board Recognition Week is celebrated the week of October $13^{th}-17^{th}$. I want to formally recognize the commitment and dedication of our Board of Education. Our Board consists of seven individuals who come together to form an incredible team of activists for public education. James Musshafen (President), Shanna Fraser (Vice President), Gregory Berl, Adria Callery, Stephanie Ely, Courtney Panek, and Heather Woerner are steadfast advocates for Wheatland-Chili's faculty, staff, students, and families. They volunteer countless hours (there is no compensation for being a Board of Education member in Wheatland-Chili) to ensure that our District is focused on our students' social, emotional, and academic growth. School board members take on one of the most important citizen responsibilities: overseeing the education of the community's youth.

October is National Principals Month

October is National Principals Month! Thank you to Dr. Murray and Mrs. Zitz for their leadership and commitment to the faculty, staff, students, and families of their buildings. Both Dan and Camille make a difference in the lives of our students. Please join me in celebrating both of our principals for their tireless dedication to student learning and success.

As a reminder, there is no school for PreK-12 students on Friday, October 10th due to Conference Day, and again on Monday, October 13th in observance of Columbus/Indigenous People's Day.

Thank you again for your continued support and partnership. We are grateful to work alongside such caring families to help our students thrive. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, ideas, or concerns—we are here for you. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and colorful fall season.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Kenny, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Wheatland-Chili Central School District

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