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Stephen J. Kenny, Ed.D.
Superintendent

March 2026

Dear Wheatland-Chili Families,

This month the arts are alive and thriving in the Wheatland-Chili Central School District. Our music ensembles are preparing for a Music in Our Schools Concert early this month, and the Wheatland-Chili Drama Club is completing its final rehearsals before this year's spring musical performance of *The Little Mermaid* splashes onto the stage at the Middle/High School Auditorium. Additional details regarding both performances are included below. Believe it or not, spring sports practices will begin the week of March 9th. Please continue reading for important updates on events taking place throughout the month of March.

Music in Our Schools Month

March is Music in Our Schools Month, a nationwide celebration recognizing the powerful and positive impact that music education has on students. Wheatland-Chili will proudly celebrate Music in Our Schools Month with a District-wide concert on Thursday, March 5th at 7:00PM. The program will feature musical selections from ensembles across the District, highlighting the talent and dedication of our student musicians and the District's music educators. We are also proud to share that the Wheatland-Chili Central School District has consistently been named a "Best Community for Music Education" by the NAMM Foundation—a testament to our community's ongoing commitment to supporting high-quality music education.

Wheatland-Chili Middle/High School Musical

The Middle/High School Drama Club's production of *The Little Mermaid* will run on Friday, March 20th at 7:00PM, Saturday March 21st at 1:00PM and 7:00PM, and Sunday, March 22nd at 1:00PM. All performances will be held at the Middle/High School Auditorium. The cast of the musical includes students from both T. J. Connor and the Middle/High School.

Wheatland-Chili Graduate of Excellence

Each year, the District accepts nominations for the Wheatland-Chili Graduate of Excellence. This honor is awarded annually to a distinguished graduate of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District who graduated ten or more years ago and who has exemplified outstanding lifetime achievement. Honorees must be exemplary citizens who have distinguished themselves through their communities, their professions, or careers. Recipients shall participate as a guest speaker at this year's high school graduation and shall be permanently honored at Wheatland-Chili with a plaque in the Graduate of Excellence display at District Office. Nominations are now being accepted and can be submitted by visiting the District Community tab on the District's website at wheatlandchili.org. Community members, staff, alumni, and families are encouraged to nominate deserving graduates for this prestigious distinction. The deadline for nominations is May 15th, 2026.

Etta Fraser Miller Fund Scholarship

The Etta Fraser Miller Scholarship Fund is awarded in honor of Etta Fraser Miller, whose dedication and service to the Wheatland-Chili community left a lasting impact on generations of students and families. This scholarship recognizes four seniors with a \$1,000 dollar scholarship for demonstrating academic achievement, leadership skills, and community involvement. Applications for the Etta Fraser Miller Fund Scholarship will be emailed and mailed to seniors and their parents/guardians on March 25th. If you have a senior who you believe should be considered for this meaningful recognition, please encourage them to apply.

2026-2027 School Budget Development

The third budget presentation for the 2026–2027 school year was recently shared with the Board of Education and the community. This presentation provided an overview of key budget components, financial considerations, and planning priorities for the upcoming school year. Families and community members can find the full presentation and additional details about the development of the 2026–2027 school budget by visiting the Budget Vote and Board Election tab within the District tab of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District homepage.

Update on District Capital Improvement Projects

Multiple components of the District’s Capital Improvement Project are well underway. At the Middle/High School, the hallways have been prepped for the installation of new tile. Upgrades to the swimming pool are scheduled to begin during the first week of March, with renovations to the counseling suite set to start in the final week of March.

T. J. Connor Upcoming School Events

- Thursday, March 5th: Music in our Schools District Concert, 7:00PM, MS/HS Gymnasium
- Monday, March 9th: Board of Education Meeting, 7:00PM, T. J. Connor
- Thursday, March 12th: PTA Meeting, 6:30PM, T. J. Connor
- Thursday, March 20th-March 22nd: Middle/High School Spring Musical, The Little Mermaid
- Monday, March 23rd: Board of Education Meeting, 7:00PM, T. J. Connor
- Friday, March 27th: Regular School Day
- Monday, March 30th - Friday, April 3rd: Spring Recess: No school for PreK–12 students

Middle/High School Upcoming School Events

- Thursday, March 5th: Music in our Schools District Concert, 7:00PM, MS/HS Gymnasium
- Friday, March 6th: Middle/High School Progress Reports Mailed Home
- Monday, March 9th: Board of Education Meeting, 7:00PM, T. J. Connor
- Thursday, March 12th: PTA Meeting, 6:30PM, T. J. Connor
- Thursday, March 20th-March 22nd: Middle/High School Spring Musical, The Little Mermaid
- Monday, March 23rd: Board of Education Meeting, 7:00PM, T. J. Connor
- Friday, March 27th: T. J. Connor Report Cards Mailed Home
- Friday, March 27th: Regular School Day
- Monday, March 30th - Friday, April 3rd: Spring Recess: No school for PreK–12 students

Sincerely,



Stephen J. Kenny, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Wheatland-Chili Central School District