



Wildcat Connections

Wheatland-Chili Central School District

Winter 2026

Drama Club Goes “Under the Sea” in Spring Musical

The Wheatland-Chili Middle/High School Drama Club invites audiences to journey “under the sea” with its upcoming musical production of *The Little Mermaid*. Based on the beloved animated film, this enchanting show brings to life unforgettable characters, iconic songs, and the timeless story cherished by generations. Featuring vibrant sets, energetic choreography, and favorite musical numbers such as “Part of Your World” and “Under the Sea,” students capture all the charm and wonder of Ariel’s adventure from the ocean to the human world. Families, friends, and community members are warmly encouraged to join us for an evening filled with music, humor, drama, and magic. Performances are scheduled for Friday, March 20 at 7:00pm, Saturday, March 21 at 1:00pm and 7:00pm, and Sunday, March 22 at 1:00pm in the Middle/High School Auditorium.



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Calendar Notice – Please note that March 27, 2026, is a regular school day, not a Conference Day as was published in the calendar. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Renovations Continue with Pool and Hallway Upgrades at the Middle/High School

Students Help with New Break Room

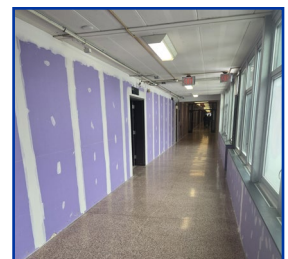
Students in Mr. Melville’s High School Technology class recently partnered with members of the District’s facilities team to complete a hands-on construction project at Wheatland-Chili’s District Office. Together, students and district’s facilities staff, renovated the District Office kitchenette and break room. The project allowed students to apply the practical skills they have been developing in class while contributing to an improvement that will be used daily by District Office staff.

As part of the project, students safely removed outdated furnishings and prepared the space for renovation. Under Mr. Melville’s guidance, they approached each step collaboratively and thoughtfully, gaining firsthand experience with planning, teamwork, and job-site safety.



Following demolition, students helped transform the space through the installation of new cabinets, measured and leveled surfaces, and supported the connection of updated plumbing. These tasks introduced them to the tools, materials, and construction techniques used by professional contractors; offering meaningful exposure to expectations within the skilled trades.

The break room renovation is one component of broader facility improvements at the District Office and underscores the practical value of career and technical education. By contributing to a project with visible, lasting results, students saw the direct impact of their work. The experience strengthened their technical abilities, expanded their problem-solving skills, and reinforced the pride that comes from quality craftsmanship.



Capital Improvement Project Nearing Completion

The final phase of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District’s 2022 Capital Improvement Project is scheduled to begin this winter, marking the culmination of a multi-year effort to enhance learning environments and strengthen essential infrastructure across the District. This phase reflects the District’s ongoing commitment to providing safe, modern, and functional facilities that support students, staff, families, and the broader school community.

Throughout the project, renovation efforts have prioritized the spaces most frequently used by students and educators. At the Middle/High School, the final phase will include upgrades to the pool, counseling suite, and auditorium lighting—improvements designed to support daily operations and enrich the overall student experience.

At T. J. Connor Elementary School, the continuing work includes bathroom renovations and the completion of a new parking lot for the District Office. This lot will be positioned slightly apart from T. J. Connor’s main parking area, allowing for improved traffic flow and creating a separation of school-day activities from business office needs.

PreK Enrollment on the Rise

PreK enrollment in the Wheatland-Chili Central School District has had one of its largest classes, and has been growing year over year. With a strong focus on foundational literacy and math skills, social-emotional development, and hands-on learning experiences, the PreK program continues to provide a welcoming and nurturing environment for its youngest Wildcats.

Interested in registering your child for PreK or Kindergarten at Wheatland-Chili? You can do so by visiting wheatlandchili.org and navigating to the "Families" tab. Once all the documents are filled out online, we will schedule a time to meet with you and fill out the final documents. Plus, if your child attends PreK at Wheatland, they will automatically be registered for Kindergarten!

Winter Pep Rally



Winter Concerts



Winter Sports



MS/HS Teacher Masters the Art of STEM



Anthony Mannara, a dedicated mathematics educator at Wheatland-Chili Middle/High School, has achieved a significant professional milestone by being named a New York State Master Teacher - one of the top honors for STEM teachers across the state. This recognition places him among a select group of outstanding K-12 educators chosen for the prestigious program, which spans numerous

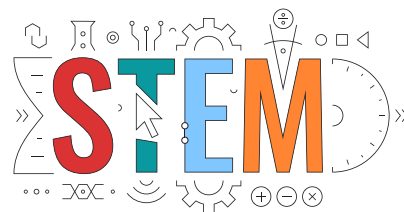
districts and celebrates excellence in teaching science, technology, engineering, and math.

Being selected for the NYS Master Teacher Program highlights Mr. Mannara's commitment to advancing STEM education both in his classroom and beyond. Mannara is one of 133 master teachers in the Western New York region, and will be participating in various workshops once a month with the other Master Teachers. "When I'm there, I'll be one of 30 Master Teachers from our cohort, and

we can learn from each other, bounce ideas off each other. So it's a really good opportunity to work with other teachers who are doing something similar."

According to Mr. Mannara, the process was long, but the wait was worth it. The overall application process took approximately 14 months, and required letters from Wheatland-Chili administrators as well as state mandated testing. "After that was all done, we had to wait...and then right around New Years [NY Governor Kathy Hochul] sent the emails out to the people who were selected, so I'm very honored" said Mannara.

As the first Master Teacher selected from Wheatland-Chili, Mannara will help lead the collaborative effort to bring more STEM curriculum to the District, and also encourage other teachers to pursue the certification.



Matejck Improving Curriculum with AVMR Certification

Wheatland-Chili Math Intervention Teacher Jenn Matejck has been busy expanding her toolbox by completing Add+Vantage Math Recovery (AVMR) 1 - Primary, AVMR 2 - Intermediate, and a specialized Fractions course. Each training focused on helping students build stronger number sense and truly understand how math works, rather than just memorizing steps. The hands-on, practical learning gave Jenn plenty of new ideas she can bring straight into her work with students who need extra support.

She was able to take part in these courses thanks to grant funding made available after COVID, when many students were still rebuilding math skills and confidence. The training provided new ways to assess student thinking and figure out where gaps might

be, making it easier to target instruction and meet students where they are. The goal has been simple — find strategies that make math more approachable, engaging, and meaningful for kids who need a little extra help.

Jenn is currently enrolled in Math Recovery Specialist 1 (MRSP1), a course designed specifically for Intervention Specialists working with students in grades K–2. By the end of the program, she'll be able to use what she's learned not only to support individual students but also to help inform Wheatland-Chili's elementary math curriculum decisions. It's another step in making sure the District's math instruction continues to grow in ways that best support students' learning and long-term success.

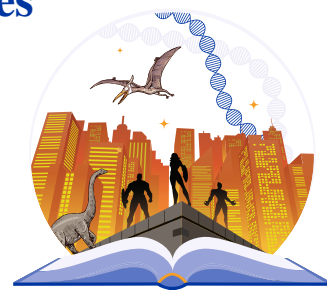
Science in Fiction - Students Immerse Themselves in Stories with New Class

A new course at Wheatland-Chili Middle/High School is offering students an exciting way to explore real science through the lens of their favorite stories. Science in Fiction, taught by Chemistry Teacher Andrew DiMaria, invites students to investigate scientific concepts as they appear in popular books and movies—and compare them to real-world science.

Throughout the course, Mr. DiMaria uses familiar science fiction works such as Jurassic Park, Gattaca, The Martian, and films from the Avengers franchise to help students make meaningful connections between fiction and modern scientific understanding. Students complete research projects and assignments that examine the accuracy of the science portrayed in these stories. Topics such as genetic engineering in Jurassic Park and Gattaca, as well as artificial intelligence (AI) depicted in the Avengers films, are explored in depth to determine how realistic these concepts are based on current knowledge.

By analyzing how AI and other advanced technologies are shown on screen versus how they function in real life, students develop strong critical-thinking skills and engage in thoughtful, research-based learning.

One of the highlights of the course is the open discussions led by Mr. DiMaria. These conversations encourage students to compare fictional scenarios with real-life scientific applications while considering the moral, ethical, and societal implications of scientific progress. Incorporating both movies and books allows for deeper exploration, broader perspectives, and continued development of students' communication and analytical abilities. The course has been met with enthusiastic responses from students and provides a fun, engaging gateway for those interested in exploring future careers in science.



Mobile Museum of Tolerance Visits the Middle School/High School

The Mobile Museum of Tolerance recently visited Wheatland-Chili Middle/High School, bringing an immersive and thought-provoking learning experience directly to students. The traveling exhibit provided interactive lessons designed to promote empathy, respect, and critical thinking through history and real-world connections. Throughout the visit, students engaged in guided discussions and hands-on activities that encouraged them to reflect on the importance of standing up against prejudice and building inclusive communities.

Eighth grade students participated in a powerful learning session focused on the life and legacy of Anne Frank. Through multimedia presentations and personal storytelling, students explored the historical context of the Holocaust while also examining Anne's experiences as a young person navigating fear, hope, and resilience. The lesson helped students connect emotionally to history, fostering deeper understanding of the consequences of discrimination and the importance of compassion.

Students in grades 9–12 took part in a “Combating Hate” program that challenged them to analyze modern examples of bias, stereotypes, and misinformation. Facilitators encouraged open dialogue as students discussed how hate can spread and explored practical strategies for being allies and advocates in their own communities.



➔ **"Education is the key to breaking the cycle of hatred"**
-Simon Weisenthal

PreK Celebrates Valentine's Day at Wheatland Senior Center

In the week leading up to Valentine's Day, Wheatland-Chili PreK classes kept up the tradition of celebrating the holiday with the community at the Wheatland Senior Center. The children enjoyed group activities such as painting, stacking, crown making, cookie designing, and much more!



Wheatland-Chili Central School District

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Upcoming Events

March

- 9 Board of Education Meeting
- 13/14 Senior High All County
- 20 – 22 MS/HS Spring Musical: The Little Mermaid
- 23 Board of Education Meeting
- 27 T. J. Connor Report Cards Mailed Home
- 30 April 3 – Spring Recess

April

- 14/15 NYS Grades 6-8 ELA Assessments
- 17 MS/HS Report Cards Mailed Home
- 20 Board of Education Meeting
- 21/22 NYS Grades 3-5 ELA Assessments

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