



Central School District

P.O. Box 648 • 374 Lake Street • Wilson, NY 14172



Learning in Nature

High School students in Jamie Lepsch's Health Class had the opportunity to get outside to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air earlier this school year.

As a part of the new Selfcare and Mindfulness course, the class took the period to be out in nature and sport their own handmade nature bracelets.

All students truly enjoyed the opportunity to take class outside and appreciate nature in the beautiful weather!



A Message from Your Superintendent

Dear Wilson Community,

As we officially step into the beautiful winter season, I want to take a heartfelt moment to reflect deeply on the many successes and remarkable achievements we have already celebrated throughout the first half of this school year. It is truly inspiring to see how consistently our students demonstrate resilience in the face of challenges, creativity in their projects, and a strong, admirable commitment to the process of learning every single day.



I am immensely proud of the collective progress our students and staff have made thus far, and I look forward with optimism and energy to the continued collaborative work that lies ahead. Beyond the classrooms, I am equally grateful for the unwavering dedication of our entire staff and the supportive network of families who work alongside us every day to champion student success. The dedication and teamwork exhibited by our students, teachers, staff, and families serve as a powerful source of inspiration for me each and every day.

As we move into the heart of the school year and the busy winter months, I am pleased to share that we have witnessed numerous highlights from across the entire district. Our students truly continue to shine in every domain, from significant academic accomplishments in rigorous coursework to exciting extracurricular achievements in arts and athletics, and meaningful participation in impactful community service projects. These triumphs are not isolated events; they are the direct result of the dedicated hard work of our talented educators and the robust, essential partnerships we share with our families and cherished community members. It is this collaborative spirit that defines our success.

Winter is traditionally a time for thoughtful connection, expressing deep gratitude for our community, and strategically looking ahead to the future. In the coming months, we will continue to collaborate on impactful initiatives specifically designed to strengthen academic growth across all grade levels, enhance the mental and emotional well-being of every student, and continually build a positive, inclusive, and thriving school culture. Thank you once more for your ongoing commitment and essential support. I look forward with excitement to a productive and successful winter season and all the new opportunities it will undoubtedly bring for our students. Together, we will maintain this positive momentum and ensure the second half of the school year is our most successful yet.

Warmly,

Timothy Carter
Superintendent, Wilson CSD

Meet this year's Student Ex-Officio BOE Member

Senior Madelyn Tokarski has stepped up to serve as this year's Student Ex-Officio member of the Board of Education.

In addition to her role as Ex-Officio Board Member, Madelyn is also a member of the Field Hockey team, National Honor Society, Plant Club, and is the treasurer of the Book Club.

Having been an active member of her school community, it seemed that taking on this role was the next logical step.

"I get a good overview of the population of Wilson. I can see what everybody thinks about things and try to get their voices heard," Madelyn explains. After receiving some encouragement from one of her teachers and her predecessor, Parker Milley, she decided to pursue the position and was voted to the position by her classmates.

A recently passed New York State law that mandates all school districts appoint at least one ex-officio, non-voting student member to their boards of education. Wilson has long-included a student Ex-Officio on its board before it was required by the state.

One of the main roles of the student board member is to provide a voice for the student body on the Board of Education.

Madelyn sees the importance of having that presence on the Board. "It's definitely important to make sure people get heard and to have somebody to talk to the board and actually make change happen," says Madelyn.

Since she is also on the High School Shared Decision Making Team, one of her goals in her role this year is to expand the scope of the school's Day of Service event that was held for the first time last year.

"One thing we've talked about is doing something outside of school. Expanding on that would be good, because I think that was a really good thing that Parker did to start it last year, and I feel like you could definitely expand on that to do more with it," says Madelyn.



Senior Madelyn Tokarski is the Student Ex-Officio BOE Member for the 2025-2026 School year.

Sauce for Lunch

Before the holiday break, staff across the district were celebrated with a special lunch courtesy of our very own Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Timothy Carter.

Staff were treated to a spaghetti lunch with sauce made by Mr. Carter. In addition to the main course, there were also helpings of meatballs, bread, salad prepared by cafeteria staff, and various desserts made by students.

The annual spaghetti lunch has been held by Mr. Carter for 21 years and serves as a show of gratitude towards teachers and staff across the district.

"I think that just having everybody together, having a family meal is a way of me giving back to the school, and also great to just see everybody all eating together," says Mr. Carter.

Mr. Carter started the long-running tradition when he was an assistant principal at West Street Elementary in the Niagara Wheatfield School District.

"It was actually the principal's idea, because he had a principal in Rochester that used to do a lasagna lunch. So, we came up with the idea of a spaghetti lunch. I did it for 12 years in Niagara Wheatfield and this is my ninth one in Wilson," Mr. Carter recalls.



We've Got to Move It, Move It!

November 13th was World Kindness Day!

The theme this year is "Kindness Moves!" The Middle School Classes thought about what they would do to make the world a kinder place. They placed hearts with their commitment to the world around the classroom doors.

Some examples that students came up with were, tolerance for others, support for each other's cultures, and to learn from people that are different from us.

"We've got to Move It, Move It" was the song 6th grade students danced along with to promote "Kindness Moves!"

How can you be kind to others and make a difference around the world? It's a great question great question for all of us to think about!



Undefeated Champions

Congratulations to both our Boys' and Girls' Varsity Soccer Teams for going undefeated and being Niagara-Orleans Athletic League champions this season!



Homecoming 2025



HALLOWEEN PARADE



Playoff Football at Highmark Stadium

The Varsity Football team capped off a very successful season with a trip to the home of the Buffalo Bills for a chance at the Section VI title.

In November, the Lakemen took the field at Highmark Stadium in Orchard Park to play in the Section VI championship against a familiar rival — the Newfane Panthers.

Our Lakemen fought hard all afternoon against the Panthers when the stakes were at their highest. Despite rallying to mount a comeback and tie the game late in the fourth quarter, the Panthers engineered one final drive to score the go-ahead touchdown and emerge victorious, 28-20.

We are very proud of the effort that Coach Atlas and our team put forth all season long.



A Holiday Breakfast

A beloved tradition has continued for its 41st year.

About 90 senior district residents were invited to school by the Wilson Teacher's Association for their 40th annual Senior Citizens Breakfast on Wednesday, December 3.

Upon arrival, the honorees were greeted by members of Coach Sippel's varsity basketball team and students in Mrs. Harvey's Middle School Student Council, who acted as coat checkers. Before breakfast, they enjoyed viewing a performance by the high school band directed by Mrs. Birkman.



Event Chairperson Marcita Shank and Wilson Teacher's Association president Christina Herman, along with fellow staff and students, helped organize the annual holiday breakfast at the school that serves as a show of gratitude and "giving back" to seniors in the community.

The event has been held at the school nearly every single year since and is now held in the memory of Jack Rodgers, former teacher and WTA President, who was the founder of this event.

After breakfast, residents went back to the auditorium for a full lineup of holiday-themed entertainment which included a choral reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" by Mrs. Smith's 10th grade English class, a performance by the kindergarten classes directed by Ms. Parker, Mrs. Ridge, Ms. Marinaccio and Miss Quagliana, the High School Jazz band directed by Mrs. Birkman, and the High School Choir directed by Ms. Juzdowski.

Mrs. Shank also wanted to thank all of the sponsors for this year event including Hardison Funeral Home, KeyBank and Bank on Buffalo for helping to cover many of the costs to make this year's breakfast possible.

Our district is proud to continue this tradition of thanking our seniors and our community for their unwavering and continued support of our school district!



Supporting Student Well-Being

A familiar face is stepping into a brand-new role at Wilson Elementary School.

Mrs. Tonya Pawlukovich, who is now in her eighth year in the district with a background as a general education teacher in ICT and CT classrooms as well as a certification in special education, is the new Dean of Students at WES.

When the Elementary School was establishing the Dean of Students position, Mrs. Pawlukovich took an immediate interest in the opportunity.

“I knew I loved the classroom, but I was just itching for something more,” she says.

In her new role, Mrs. Pawlukovich aims to focus on spending time with students and addressing their needs.

“This first year is really trying to get the students comfortable with me so that they don’t only see me as a disciplinary but as someone that they can come to for help,” she explains.

Another big stride in addressing student’s needs can also be found in Mrs. Pawlukovich’s office — a sensory room.

The sensory room is not a recreational space, but rather an intentional intervention tool to support social-emotional learning (SEL). Getting the room up and running was a collaborative effort between Mrs. Pawlukovich, WES Principal Mr. Jason Wilkie, and the PTA.

The room is a thoughtfully designed therapeutic environment created to support students in developing self-regulation skills and maintaining emotional balance. For students who may experience challenges with focus, sensory processing, or stress, this space provides structured opportunities to recalibrate and return to the classroom ready to learn.

Fully funded by the PTA, the room provides visual stimulation, engagement of fine motor skills and various sensory inputs.

The main function of the space so far has been for counseling in crisis situations.

“Unfortunately, when students feel like they’re in trouble, they shut down, they’re crying and they don’t really know how to communicate. So, we take a quick pause and then we can kind of really get down to the root of it,” Mrs. Pawlukovich explains.



Mrs. Tonya Pawlukovich is the Dean of Students, a newly installed position at WES.



Features of the sensory room include a Light Bubble Machine and Constellation Projector, a Light Pegboard and Lego Board, Beanbag Chairs and a Compression Chair, a Carpeted Relaxation Area and an Ice Chip Machine.

High School Welcomes New York Times Best-Selling Author

Back in October, acclaimed young adult author Julie Berry paid a visit to the High School to talk about her new book “If Looks Could Kill” and the powerful parallels between both the story and real worlds.

The novel has been described as “a gut punch, an inventive Greek mythology infused thriller, a powerful exploration of human connection during nightmarish times and pure girl power vibes made circa 1888.”

Set in New York City during the Gilded Age, Berry’s newest New York Times bestseller weaves the historical and mythological intersections of Jack the Ripper and Medusa where the upper-teen main characters set out to rescue another teen who’s been forced to work in a brothel until Medusa and the murderer get in the way.

“I have deliberately mashed together the story world and real world in this story,” Berry explains.

Ultimately, Berry said in her novel she wants to show that there is not as much separation between the story and real worlds.

“I’ve drawn a dotted line between them, because the story world seeps into the real world all the time. The stories we read influence the real world. Stories actually change the world, and they normalize certain things. They create ideas that take hold of us all. And of course, the real world seeps into the story world, because real world people create the story world,” says Berry.

Afterwards, Berry signed copies of the book in the library for students and staff.



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Timothy P. Carter, Superintendent
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Jeffrey Roth, Athletic Director
Amanda Townsend, Director of Special
Education and Student Services
Todd Harmon, Director of Facilities
Paul Galgovich, High School Principal
Scott Benton, Middle School Principal
Jason Wilkie, Elementary School Principal
Susan Bell, Food Service Director

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David Gurski Inducted into National Technical Honor Society

Congratulations to Senior David Gurski who was recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center. David is a student in the Conservation program.

Out of all the high school students in the United States, the National Technical Honor Society students who receive this honor comprise 1.6 percent of that population.

For staff at the Orleans/Niagara BOCES centers, they represent the four pillars of the National Technical Honor Society: scholarship, leadership, service and character.

The students had to maintain an 89.5 grade average in their career and technical education programs and an 84.5 average at their high schools, have superior attendance, exemplary behavior, be a member in good standing with SkillsUSA and have a recommendation from a faculty member.

David plans on attending college and continue playing soccer. He is a member of the Varsity Soccer team, Wrestling team and Track team, a SkillsUSA member, a Wilson champion and a Student of the Month.



High School Principal Paul Galgovich, David Gurski and Superintendent Tim Carter.