

Waits River Valley School

WILDCAT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Principal: Mrs. Carlotta Simonds-Perantoni
March 27, 2026

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Wildcat Events



March

Tuesday, March 31-
Thursday, April 2
8th – Science VTCAP

April

Tuesday, April 7-
Thursday, April 9
6th, 7th & 8th –
ELA VTCAP

Tuesday, April 7 -
Pre-k Parent Information
Night
@ 5:30 PM in Library

Wednesday, April 8 -
Pre-k Applications Open

Friday, April 10 -
Middle School Dance

Tuesday, April 14 -
5th Grade – Page –
Hood Museum

Wednesday, April 15 -
5th Grade – King –
Hood Museum

Friday, April 17 -
No School Inservice

Mon. April 20 –
Friday, April 24
No School Spring Break

March 27, 2026

It's hard to believe that March is coming to a close.

The 3rd-5th grade scholars wrapped up their VTCAP testing. We applaud our scholars in putting forth their best efforts. Next Tuesday, March 31st, the 8th grade scholars will kick-off middle school VTCAP testing with the Science VTCAP.

Our school is a registered participant with the Hannaford Helps Schools program. April 5th through May 30th, you can help our school earn School Dollars by shopping participating products at Hannaford which show the label "helps schools". For every 4 participating products purchased, shoppers earn 3 School Dollars. You can find more information in the newsletter below.

Please watch your emails for information to sign-up for Parent Conferences which will take place the week of April 13th. If you have

not heard from your scholar's teacher, please reach out with an email or feel free to call school. There will be NO SCHOOL on Friday, April 17th. Spring Break will start the week of April 20th.

Happy last weekend of March!



The Rough & Tumble at Corinth Town Hall

The Cookeville Coffee House returns on Saturday, March 28th for a mud season special! Music from The Rough & Tumble (former WRVS Artists-In-Residence) and a BBQ feast cooked up by Crossmolina Farm. Dinner at 6pm. Music at 7pm. Dinner is \$24 for adults and \$12 for kids under 12.



Mark Your Calendars!

WRVS Budget Informational Meeting

Thursday, April 30, 2026
@ 6:00 PM in the WRVS
Library

56th Annual WRVS Budget Meeting

Monday, May 4, 2026
@ 6:30 PM in the
WRVS gymnasium

PLEASE RETURN

Middle School Ski/Board Equipment

Please have your scholar return their ski/board boots, helmets, and skis/snowboard (if they were taken home). We still have quite a few scholars that we are awaiting the return of their equipment. If your family is still skiing and you will return your scholar's equipment to Slopestyle at the conclusion of the season, please send an email to Kelly Smith, kellysmith@oesu.org, to let us know.

Waits River Valley School
After-School Program
Monday – Friday
(Except for Holidays & Half Days)
3:00 – 5:00 PM
Cell Phone (After 3:00 PM):
802-486-9349



For information or to sign-up your scholar, please call, 802-439-5534, or visit our website:
<https://www.wrvschool.org/families/after-school-program>

FREE COMPOST AVAILABLE

We have beautiful, well turned, composted dirt, that is available, in bucket quantities, not truckloads!

If you would like to arrange to take some of the dirt for your own upcoming garden needs, please contact us at school:
802-439-5534.

The Positivity Project (P2)

This week our WRVS community P2 focus was **Humor**. Laughter is an important part of our everyday lives, as well as bringing a smile to those you see throughout your day.

The mission of the Positivity Project is to “empower students to build positive relationships and become their best selves”. The weekly focus is posted on our [website](#) every Monday. Building positive relationships and learning about character development is an important cornerstone in each person's life. If you have further questions about the Positivity Project at WRVS, please reach out to our Guidance Counselor, Ann Schlott, ann.schlott@oesu.org.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

This week's staff spotlight is truly a celebration of "the big top". Drum Roll please.....Mr. Chapin!

Mr. Chapin is our PreK-8 Music teacher. He has brought magic to our classrooms and the stage for four years now. Mr. Chapin makes music class fun and energized; he brings humor and relationship to each moment.

Mr. Chapin has brought theater actively to part of our days here at WRVS, which fosters both self-confidence and artistic growth. Thank you, Mr. Chapin, for nurturing creativity, creating a positive atmosphere, and going above and beyond to make music, and theater, a memorable experience for scholars.

Additionally, Mr. Chapin does love a pick-up game of basketball, an improv sing-a-long, a musical dedication to any staff member or scholar, and ultimately he'll do anything that brings a smile to the scholars faces and warmth to their heart. Mr. Chapin knows, and celebrates, the whole child, and will always "sing" their praises!

You are an educator who does more than teach notes; you inspire creativity and curiosity. Thank you Mr. Chapin!



Mr. Thomas Chapin
Music Teacher

Hannaford Helps Schools

Our school is a registered participant with the Hannaford Helps Schools program. April 5th through May 30th, you can help our school earn School Dollars by shopping participating products at Hannaford which show the label "helps schools". For every 4 participating products purchased, shoppers earn 3 School Dollars. At checkout, customers receive a School Dollar printout that they can redeem online and direct funds to our school.

Using Hannaford To Go? With Hannaford To Go, School Dollars are not provided at pickup. Instead, about a week into May and again a week into June, Hannaford will email you a unique code reflecting the total School Dollars you earned in the previous month from qualifying purchases.

To redeem School Dollars, simply enter the unique printout code and store number on the Hannaford Helps Schools website or app, then select our school. Each School Dollar printout also includes a QR code linking directly to the website, making it quick and easy to redeem School Dollars.

A promotional graphic for the Hannaford Helps Schools program. It features a dark background with colorful school supplies like pencils, paper clips, and a pushpin. The Hannaford logo is at the top left, followed by the text "helps schools" in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below this, a paragraph explains the program: "Make every purchase count! For every 4 qualifying items you buy, you'll earn a School Dollar printout worth 3 School Dollars. To redeem online, simply scan the QR code, enter the printout code and select our school to help maximize the School Dollars that support your child's school." At the bottom, there is a sample of a "School Dollars" printout. The printout shows "XXXXXX STORE # XXXX", "You just earned School Dollars.", a dollar sign icon, and a QR code. A small box on the right of the printout says "Scan to select your school".

WAITS RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL

APRIL

DATES TO REMEMBER

TUESDAY 07 PREK PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT 5:30 PM - WRVS LIBRARY

FRIDAY 10 MIDDLE SCHOOL SEMI-FORMAL DANCE 6-8 PM

MON. - THURS. 13-16 PARENT CONFERENCE WEEK
FRIDAY 17 NO SCHOOL-INSERVICE

MONDAY - FRIDAY 20-24 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK

THURSDAY 30 ART SHOW 5-7 PM WRVS GYMNASIUM

THURSDAY 30 WRVS BUDGET INFORMATIONAL MEETING 6:00 PM WRVS LIBRARY

The following letter is being shared on behalf of the school community in regards to Act 73 and maintaining school choice, by the Waits River Valley School Board.

To: Chairs Conlon, Bongartz, and Kornheiser; Members of the House and Senate Committees on Education and House Committee on Ways & Means **CC:** Rep. Tagliavia and Sen. Benson; Committee Assistants

Dear Representatives and Senators,

The Waits River Valley School Board, representing **Corinth and Topsham**, has reviewed the evolving redistricting proposals under Act 73. While we share the goal of a sustainable educational system, the current proposals of the House and Senate Education Committees threaten to disenfranchise our students, disregard geographical logic, and dismantle decades of highly successful partnerships, with no evidence this upheaval will do anything to reduce costs or increase educational quality and equity. We strongly oppose any solutions that eliminate our historical access to choice and ask you to incorporate the considerations and suggestions below as you proceed.

Steady Enrollment and Fiscal Prudency

The Waits River Valley School (WRVS) district has not experienced the double-digit tax increases or the enrollment declines that have fueled the imperative to redistrict. Our fiscal stability is the result of years of disciplined, lean budgeting, which also means our students forgo some of the extras of wealthier communities. For our families, **high school choice** is the other side of the coin, providing the first chance for students to explore their interests in a broader playing field.

In 2025, 50 of our 129 high schoolers attended Thetford Academy with 45 attending Oxbow High School, and the rest attending a dozen other mostly public schools or historic academies (e.g., Spaulding HS, Blue Mountain Union, Saint Johnsbury Academy, Union-32, and Hanover HS). For decades, families in our community have been able to avail themselves of all these choices as they weighed what best met the needs of their children and/or their work commutes to any of the surrounding towns.

We ask that you do not solve problems created or experienced by other communities at the expense of our students – specifically, please do not remove, limit, or otherwise jeopardize their access to choice.

Response to Current Maps and Language

Neither of the primary maps currently on the table reflect the reality of life in Orange County.

- **Conlon Map:** This proposal groups us in “District 12” with towns as far north as Walden and Waterford. We share little to no geographic or cultural alignment with these communities. We are, by contrast, inextricably linked to many of the towns of District 11 (e.g., Thetford, Chelsea) by county lines, commuting patterns and geography.

Further, initial proposed language to accompany the map (“[Elizabeth St. James: Proposed Designation Contract Language - draft 1.1](#)”) would essentially force Corinth and Topsham students to lose all choice and likely require them to only attend Oxbow High School. We are very opposed to this map in tandem with the draft 1.1 language.

- **Bongartz Map:** Like the Conlon map, this map isolates Corinth, Topsham, and Bradford in the “Central Area SU” away from other neighbors. This grouping also appears to marginalize towns with lower wealth and less representation.

Map and Language Alternatives

As a first line of defense, we ask you to keep the OESU towns (Bradford, Newbury, Corinth, Groton, Ryegate, Thetford, and Topsham) together. We also ask you to add language that ensures continued access to high school choice for Corinth and Topsham students, regardless of the boundaries that are drawn.

- As the current map proposals have been framed as “just a starting point,” we suggest you **consider instead a district including Bradford, Newbury, Corinth, Groton, Ryegate, Thetford, and Topsham, plus Orange, Washington, Chelsea, Tunbridge, Sharon, and Strafford.** This configuration serves approximately 2,933 students, hitting your target size while maintaining geographic and educational cohesion. Another option would be to use the Orange County boundary (3,624 students with Rivendell subtracted).
- Act 73 was a compromise. It **pared down the list of schools eligible to receive tuition but left historic choice towns with the ability to continue to tuition to public schools or approved independent schools that met certain conditions (§ 828).** Now, the legislature appears to want to change this arrangement. This is unfair and deeply destabilizing to our community. **The legislature must keep its bargain and retain the Act 73 § 828 language,** which would allow Corinth and Topsham to continue to be able to send our high school students to schools of choice, regardless of whatever maps and governance structures are ultimately selected.
- While we urge an alternative map and the maintenance of current Act 73 language, **we believe the language in “[Elizabeth St. James: Proposed School Designation Contract Language - draft 2.1](#)” holds potential** – provided it guarantees continued access to **CHOICE** for Corinth and Topsham students **regardless of the respective districts** in which the towns are ultimately placed. We would urge the addition of language that guarantees **any public or independent school that has served at least 20% of a town's high school population in the last year be automatically designated as an eligible choice** for towns that have historically tuitioned their high schoolers.
- We support the intent of the language in “[Proposed Enrollment Attendance Zone-School Choice Policies Language, Draft 1.3,](#)” introduced March 13, to continue to allow choice in historic choice communities as it existed on July 1, 2026, as long as it:
 - Includes approved independent schools.
 - Does not restrict attendance to public or approved independent schools located within the same SU/SD as the sending school (i.e., require policies allow both inter- and intra-district choice, to reflect current attendance patterns).
 - Ensures any school choice policy does not add new restrictions to the choices that have been historically available to students and their families, such as through applications and lotteries.

We understand the pressure the legislature is under to “draw maps,” but we ask respectfully that you decline to take any action that will harm students, families, and educational outcomes without any commensurate benefit. The evidence does not appear to support a conclusion that reforming

governance through redistricting and eliminating choice will address the root causes of cost increases (e.g. and primarily, relentless increases in staff health insurance costs). It will not solve student enrollment declines, nor will it improve educational outcomes. And the aggressive timeline, **especially if paired with loss of access to high school choice**, will be especially harmful to current middle schoolers, who already endured the brunt of the destabilization of the Covid years at the beginning of their K-12 journey.

Thank you for your hard work. We are available to collaborate, provide feedback and testimony as the discussion continues, and we ask that you consider and include us in your decision-making.

Sincerely,

The Waits River Valley School Board *Representing the Towns of Corinth and Topsham*

It's not too late to purchase the Waits River Valley School yearbook!

To purchase your yearbook go to Treering.com →

Customize your 2 free pages

- Add photos from your computer, Facebook, Google Drive and more
- Answer fun memory questions to help remember the year
- The 2 custom pages are free and are printed only in your book. Want more pages? Each additional 2 pages are just \$1.99.

Deadline: **May 11**

To purchase your yearbook, use the QR code or:

Must be a parent or student 13 years or older:

1. Go to: treering.com/validate
2. Enter your school's passcode:

1014138291801595

Hardcover: **\$23.69**

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