Welcome to WCS!

3rd Grade Parent Info Night

May 26, 2026
6:30 – 7:30

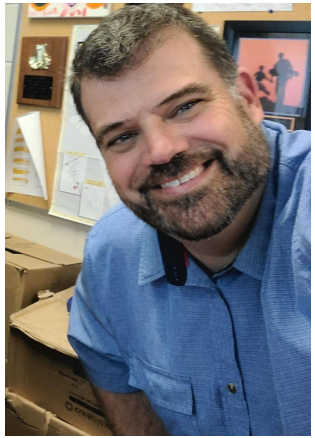






Welcome and Introductions





Greg Marino
WCS Principal



Nadine Paffett-Lugassy
Planning Room Director



Danielle Morin
School Counselor



Kim McMahon
FACS



Williston Schools
Williston, Vermont

Connect and WARM-UP

- One celebration from the year
- One question you hope to have answered tonight



Goals for the Evening

- Introductions
- Learn about key staff members
- General WCS information
- Share resources & school wide expectations
- Transitional supports
- Your Questions
- Optional Tour





New Leadership Structure for Next Year

- Greg Marino, WCS Principal
- Ayrin Thibault, WCS Assistant Principal
- Angela Fillion, ABS Building Principal
- Sarah Gordon, Director of Student Services





AyrinThibault

Assistant Principal



Some Key Staff Members



Perryn Cappelli

Front Office Receptionist



Lisa Barland

Administrative Assistant to WCS Principal and Asst. Principal



Amy Benoit

Direction Center Office Assistant

WCS General Information





- Arrival & Departure Times:
  - The school Day starts at 7:45 and ends at 2:45
  - Getting off to a good start matters
- Drop-off reminders -
  - If your child does not currently ride the bus to school, we encourage them to give it a try. Walking and “rolling” to school is also highly encouraged, if your address allows
  - If you must drop off your child via personal vehicle, please be mindful of timing and school procedures.
- New Next Year: Pick-up Patrol,
  - an online tool that helps with home to school communication
- The Wildcat Buzz newsletter and Our School Website is a great resource for nes

Components and Flow of the School Day



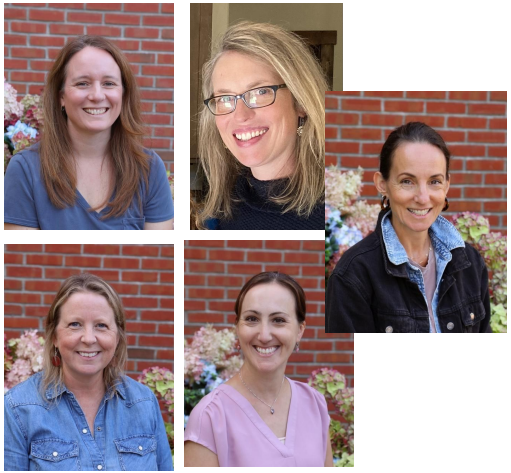
- Arrival and Ease-in
- Morning Meeting
- Morning Snack Break
- Instructional Blocks
  - Reading, Writing, Word Study, Math, WIN / Theme
- 45 Minute Lunch and Recess Block -
  - Students eat and have recess together as a grade level. All 3rd Grade / All 4th Grade
- 40 Min Essential Arts Class
- Dismissal

3rd-4th Grade Teams



3-4 Team Assistant,
Julia Nesbit

- **Mosaic House (2+2 looping)**
  - Teachers: Michelle Cadoret and Hannah Christiansen (4th Grade) - Liz Parker and Melissa Malone (3rd Grade)
  - Special Educator: Morgan Rocissono
  - School Counselor: Cairsten Keese



- **Equinox House (3 multi-age)**
  - Teachers: Karin Ward, Susan Stewart, Tara Weegar
  - Special Educator: Katie Cuttitta
  - School Counselor: Kim Odachowski



- **Kaleidoscope House (2 multi-age classes)**

  Teachers: Marybeth Morrissey, Michael Kellogg,
  Special Educator: Peter Guggenberger
  School Counselor: Danielle Morin



- Parent communication:

  Bi-weekly with teacher using folder or email system - weekly updates, upcoming events, and important information parents need to know.

Essential Arts Classes



- Art
- Music
- PE
- Family and Consumer Science (FACS)
- Applied STEM (design and Tech)





Abby Bowker - Art



Dustin King - PE



Kate Grozier - PE



Emy Berger - Music



Kim McMahon - FACS



Allan Miller

Design and Technology

School Library and Digital Learning leader



Ellen Arapakos
WCS Librarian



Jessica Wilson
Digital Learning Leader

Literacy and Math Coordinators
Academic Support Team / Intervention



Abby Reynolds
Literacy Coordinator



Jess Eaton
Literacy Interventionist



Melita Sedic-Lawton
Multilingual Tchr



Lindy Gramling
Physical Therapist



Caitlin Bianchi
Math Coordinator



Alison Figdor
Math Interventionist



Angie Thibault
Spch / Lang Pathologist

People who can help...

Health Office

Nurse Maria



Nurse Samantha



Nurse Kathleen



Direction Center Offices

School Counselors



Danielle Morin

Kaleidoscope



Cairsten Keese

Mosaic



Kim Odachowski

Equinox



School Supports





- School Counseling Supports - Classroom instruction, snack/lunch bunches to support social connections, individual meetings to help students manage feelings and stressful moments, small group skill-building opportunities, check-ins to help with challenges & transitions
- Kid Talk Support Teams - Counselors support weekly team meetings with teachers, school counselors, special educators, and paraeducators to help students in achieving their ongoing academic, social, emotional, and behavioral goals
- EST Team - built in members of our EST team, supporting students to meet their educational goals

Direction Center Team

Planning Room & Additional Supports





Erin Chicoine and Nadine Paffett-Lugassy

Behavior Systems Coordinators



Emily Chadwick,

Howard Center School Social Worker

School Wide Expectations

The Wildcat Way

Take Care of Yourself

Take Care of Others

Take Care of this Place



School Safety



- Williston Community Safety Committee
  - **Mission:** To continuously improve the knowledge, skills, and preparedness related to personal and institutional safety, especially in the schools of Williston
- Meets regularly - made up staff from each of the schools, local emergency services, Town officials, and State experts and consultants
- SCHOOL SAFETY AT A GLANCE
  - RELATIONSHIPS and COMMUNITY
  - Infrastructure / Facilities
  - Standardized Procedures and Practice - HABITS



Communication









- We place a high value on communicating effectively with parents, caregivers, and families
- School Tools:
  - Weekly “Wildcat Buzz” newsletter, School Messenger Tool, (Phone, Email, and now text messaging)
  - We will try not to overdo it.
- For House / Team Based Questions
  - Use the house Team Assistant via email or phone
- Please allow teachers at least 24 hours to respond to your communications. We encourage phone or in-person conversations, vs email, for more nuanced situations
- Communications about absences or changes in end of day plans should go to wcsattendance@cvsdvt.org
- **New next yea**r: Pick-up Patrol - more details to follow
- Translation/interpretation services are available

Food Service



- Lunch and recess are back to back and will be 45 min length combined
- Hot and cold option offered every day on the monthly menu plus; ham sandwich, turkey sandwich, sunbutter & jelly sandwich, chef salad and garden salad.
- Daily breakfast special and several additional options each day for students to choose from. Breakfast meals are served from our 2 breakfast carts at opposite corners of the building.
- All breakfast and lunch meals are currently free for all students and is expected to be free again next year.
- Accommodations for special dietary requirements or allergies are handled on a case by case basis. (Some may require a note from a doctor)
- Microwaves are available to heat up food







Getting Involved

- Families As Partners (F.A.P.), Committee involvement, House reps, ...
- 4 Winds continues through grade 4.
- Volunteer on field trips
- Classroom teachers will be in touch about potential volunteer opportunities
- Do you have a passion / occupation / hobby that you think may present an engaging learning opportunity? - don't hesitate to reach out
- Volunteers are required to complete safety paperwork / background checks

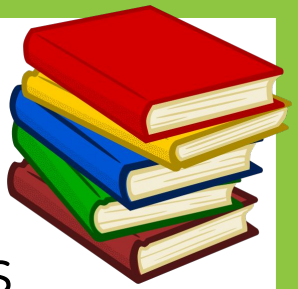
Supporting a Successful Transition



- Placements go home on or around June 5
- 3rd grade student panel agt ABS - June 8
- Step up Day! - June 9th
- Hopes and Dreams Surveys from teachers
- Welcome Breakfast / Meet and Greet Event
- First Day Greeters and Escorts
- Fall Conferences
- 3-4 Open House, September

Summer Supports / Ideas





- Encourage your child to read as much as possible! High-preference reading choices are great! Research says it makes a difference.
- Practice basic math facts - make it fun!
- Access DAML library programs
- Other programs through Williston Parks and Rec department





Questions?







Optional Tour

