



Central School District

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

Class of 2026 Top Ten

Valedictorian

Braden D. Seeley

College:
Penn State
University

Major:
Actuarial
Science



Salutatorian

R. Peter Kane

College:
Niagara
University

Major:
Environmental
Science



#3 Madelyn J. Tokarski

College:
Niagara University
Major:
Communication &
Media Studies



#4 Ruby L. Narehood

College:
Niagara University
Major:
Marketing



#5 Abbie E. Faery

College:
Robert Morris
University
Major:
Psychology



#6 Rowan G. Simpson

College:
Brigham Young
University Idaho
Major:
Allied Health



#7 Shamus J. George

College:
Clarkson University
Major:
Mechanical
Engineering



#8 Avery M. A. Nedelko

College:
SUNY Niagara
Major:
Radiologic Technology
Pathway



#9 Cassandra D. Ranney

College:
SUNY Geneseo
Major:
Music



#10 Skyler A. Aydelotte

College:
SUNY Niagara
Major:
Computer Science



Best Wishes to all 2026 Graduates

A Message from Your Superintendent

Dear Wilson Community,

As the academic year closes, there is no greater joy in my role than witnessing the culmination of our students' hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Graduation is not just a ceremony; it is a profound milestone that marks both an ending and a bright new beginning.



To the class of 2026, I want to extend my most heartfelt congratulations. During your time in the Wilson Central School District, you have faced unique challenges, embraced new opportunities, and grown in ways that extend far beyond the classroom. You have proven yourselves to be resilient, creative, and compassionate individuals. Whether your next step takes you to a college campus, a trade school, the military, or directly into the workforce, you are uniquely prepared to make your mark on the world.

As you look forward to the future, I challenge you to carry the values you learned here: curiosity, integrity, and community. Never stop asking questions, never compromise your kindness, and always remember where you came from.

This achievement belongs to more than just our graduates. It is a testament to the incredible support system surrounding them:

- To our Parents and Families: The diploma your graduate holds belongs to you, too. Thank you for the countless early mornings, late nights, words of encouragement, and for partnering with our teachers and staff to guide these young adults to this moment.
- To our Educators and Staff: From the kindergarten teachers who taught this class how to share, to the bus drivers, cafeteria staff, counselors, and high school mentors who guided them across the finish line—you have poured your hearts into these students. This milestone is a testament to your hard work. Thank you for your tireless dedication, your passion for teaching, and for seeing the boundless potential in every single student who walked through your doors.
- To our Community: Thank you for investing in our schools and ensuring our students have the resources they need to thrive.

Class of 2026, as you graduate and step into this exciting next chapter, know that your entire community is cheering you on. We are immensely proud of you, and we cannot wait to see what you achieve next. Congratulations, graduates!

Sincerely,

Timothy Carter
Superintendent

Wilson Students Medal at NYS SkillsUSA

Two Wilson High School students, who attend Orleans/Niagara BOCES, took home medals at the New York State SkillsUSA competition.

The students competed April 22-24 at the 2026 NYS SkillsUSA Leadership Conference and Competition held at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

Congratulations to all our SkillsUSA students representing the O/N BOCES Niagara Career and Technical Education Center:

Bella Muck, a junior in the Conservation Program, with classmate Zachary Abel (North Tonawanda) brought home a silver medal in the Commercial Drone Competition.

April Paul-Redding, a junior in the Early Childhood Education Program, along with classmate Madelynn Doucet (Niagara Wheatfield) brought home a silver medal in the Banner Contest Competition.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student to excel and empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.



April Paul-Redding with teacher Laura Koppel and classmate Madelynn Doucet (Niagara Wheatfield).



Bella Muck with classmate Zachary Abel (North Tonawanda).

Encouraging Driver Safety

For the third consecutive year, Juniors and Seniors participated in a Traffic Safety Fair in May.

The various demonstrations aimed to remind the students about safe driving tips and behaviors ahead of prom.

Students gathered outside for very informative presentations from personnel with the Niagara County Sheriff's Office and local first responders. New York State Troopers were also on hand to show students a rollover crash demonstration.

Juniors and Seniors also witnessed the landing of a Mercy Flight helicopter on the school grounds. They had a chance to get a sneak peek of the helicopter once it landed and ask the flight crew some questions!

Following the outdoor demonstrations, Niagara County Assistant District Attorney Christine Savoia and Marianne Angelillo did presentations on different charges and the ripple effects of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol along with real stories about tragic DUI and reckless driving cases.

In the gym, personnel from the Niagara County Sheriff's Office set up interactive stations including distracted driving simulations.



Congratulations To Our 2025-2026 Retirees:

Pamela Bax-Waterstrat	Elementary Teacher
Kimberley DeBiase	Elementary Teacher
Jennifer Frey	Speech-Language Pathologist
Stacia Sidell	Teacher Aide
Gale Palmer	Mathematics Teacher
Chad LaFever	Art Teacher
Kim MacDonald	Psychologist
Sandy Walch	School Nurse



(L-R): Jen Frey, Kim DeBiase, Pam Waterstrat, Stacia Sidell, and Sandy Walch.

Also recognized, but not pictured: Chad LeFever, Kim MacDonald, and Gale Palmer.



Congratulations Wilson Class of 2026!



Trent
Abbott



Lyla
Adamczyk



Skyler
Aydelotte



Donna
Clark



Morgan
Coulter



Kyle
Cudney



Vic
Cusatis



Zenon
Cyphert



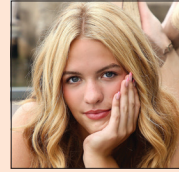
Andrew
Danner



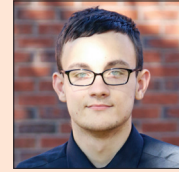
Blake
East



Brayden
Edmister



Abbie
Faery



Ferris
Flint



Bailey
Fournier



Shamus
George



David
Gorski Jr.



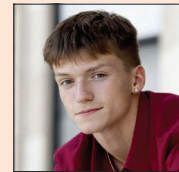
Mackenzie
Hardy



Pearce
Hendricks



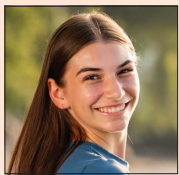
Kenneth
Hilwig



Ryan
Hough



Nathan
Hurtgam



Ava
Hyjek



Kenidy
Kaminski



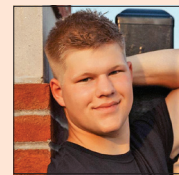
R. Peter
Kane



Josiah
Lawrence



Koa
Leapai



Brock
Lepsch



James
Madan



Chase
Martin



Anthony
Matias



Wyatt
McGinnis



Landon
Mueller



Ruby
Narehood



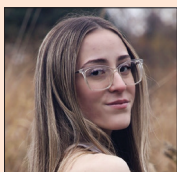
Avery
Nedelko



Aidan
Neumann



Isabel
Nugent



Payton
Oliphant



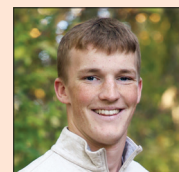
Cassandra
Ranney



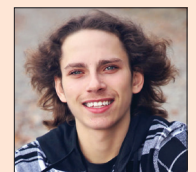
Maria Bedolla
Rodriguez



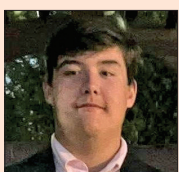
Michael
Ruble



Braden
Seeley



Justin
Shaw



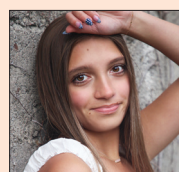
Brayden
Sidebottom



Carrie
Simmons



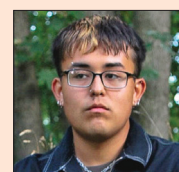
Rowan
Simpson



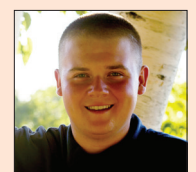
Audrie
Speziale



Ciera
Strack



Wyatt
Thomas



Ryan
Thompson



Congratulations Wilson Class of 2026!



Isabella
Thrush



Madelyn
Tokarski



Lauren
VanderLinden



Madilynn
Warren



Trevor
Wilson

Camera Shy Seniors

Calix Virtuoso
Kerrylee Simmons
Tristian Holbert

Military Bound Seniors



*Donna Clark
Blake East
Ferris Flint
Kenneth Hilwig*



Walk Down Memory Lane

Seniors at the High School had the opportunity to walk the halls one last time before graduation.

Donning their caps and gowns, the class of 2026 took to the hallways starting in the High School and Middle School building before making the trek over to where it all began at the Elementary School.

All along the way, teachers, students and staff were cheering them on to wish them well as they complete their academic journey at Wilson.



Wilson Students Sweep Envirothon with O/N BOCES

Congratulations to High School students David Gurski and Bella Muck, who with their Orleans/Niagara BOCES Envirothon teams took the top spots at the Niagara-Orleans Envirothon held at Bond Lake in Ransomville.

The overall Envirothon winner and the number one team in Niagara County was the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center's (NCTEC) Conservation team taught by Jay Kaplewicz. Congratulations go to David Gurski along with his classmates Nathan Couturier (Lockport), Jordyn Kinne (Barker), Andrew Williams (Niagara Academy) and Adam Yanicki (Royalton-Hartland). They also received the highest score on the Forestry, Soils and Current Issue exams.

A team of juniors, in the Conservation program from NCTEC, consisting of Bella Muck with her classmates Alexandria Ledger (Niagara Academy), Carter Kennedy (Starpoint) Trent Pope (Lewiston-Porter) and Kayla Terry (Starpoint) took the top score in the oral presentation portion on the current issue.

There were 18 teams total of high school students from Orleans and Niagara Counties. Each team consisted of four to six students who underwent rigorous testing in the fields of wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils/land use and gave a presentation on the environmental issue of "Non-Point Source Pollution: It Begins at Home!"

This yearly event is hosted by the Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District. It is a great event for students to show off their knowledge of the environment and brainstorm on ways to protect and manage their local natural resources.

Both teams then moved on to the New York State Envirothon in SUNY Cortland at the end of May.



Bella Muck and her O/N BOCES classmates.



David Gurski and his classmates were the overall Envirothon winners.

Making a Difference in the Community



Students from Wilson High School took a day outside the classroom to help out their community.

Students in grades 9-12 took part in the second annual Day of Service on May 21. The footprint and scope of this year's activities have grown considerably from last year's Day of Service, which was held solely in the school.

This year, students volunteered at 12 different community organizations located in the village of Wilson, Niagara Falls and Buffalo.

"What you're going to be doing today is going to make a difference for a lot of people," High School Principal Paul Galgovich told students. "And at the end of the day, we're going to take a look at everything we did, and hopefully you'll be able to see that your acts today definitely did make a difference and have a lasting impact on other people."

Throughout the village, groups also helped prepare flower planters, clean up Wilson Tuscarora State Park, washing Wilson Fire Company trucks, cleaning and organizing at the Wilson Community Food Pantry, preparing for the newly improved Farmers Market at Brownies and preparing the grounds of the Wilson Historical Society for their Memorial Day events.

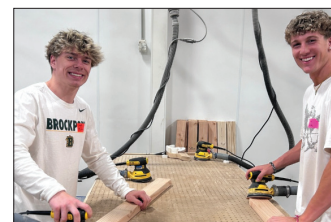
Sophomore Yeardley George and her group volunteered at Greenwood Cemetery Park where students helped to clean and document graves as part of the Billion Graves Project.

"It definitely felt like we made more of a change as a school this year, because we were more hands-on," she said.

Outside the village, students cleaned up Martin Luther King Park in Buffalo, helped out nursing home patients at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, worked with veterans to help with clothes closets and food preparation at Niagara Falls Gospel Mission and helped build beds for kids all across Western New York with Sleep in Heavenly Peace's Buffalo Chapter.

Senior Brock Lepsch was one of the students who helped build beds at Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Lepsch said the Day of Service helped them to experience firsthand the importance and impact of their work on others.

"There's lots of things that we take for granted in our lives, like something as simple as a bed, not every kid has one, not even in our own school district, so it was really eye-opening to see," he said.



Story of a Survivor

Over this school year, eighth grade English classes studied the Holocaust through various literature, videos and reading “The Diary of Anne Frank” play.

In an effort to have students make connections to the Holocaust, the eighth grade class took part in a Holocaust Day of Remembrance in April. Students viewed the movie *White Bird* (a graphic novel from their summer reading) and attended a presentation by Carol Schmeidler, a daughter of a Holocaust survivor who works with the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.

She shared the story of her father, Max Schmeidler who was born in Berlin, Germany in 1927 and worked for the family leather business before being forced out of Germany by the Nazis in the late 1930s.

Her father left Europe from England, traveled through Canada on a transit visa, and settled in Shanghai, China in July of 1940, where he lost contact with his family for nearly a decade.

Max Schmeidler then moved to the United States in 1946 and ultimately settled in Buffalo where he had two children, including Carol.

Carol said that her father didn’t often talk about his past during his lifetime, but only in recent years has she begun to learn about her father’s life through research and documents he left behind, which inspired her to share his story with others.

“He left a legacy for us. He left us, and that was his victory. We were his victory over the Nazis. All of his cousins who survived, they got married, they had kids and that was their victory.”



Elementary School Flag Day Parade



Boosterthon Fun Run





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

Timothy P. Carter, Superintendent
Carolyn Oliveri, Business Administrator
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

Board of Education:

Christopher Carlin, President
Kathleen Stewart, Vice President

Laurette Clark
Bethzaida Hart
Timothy Kropp
R.J. Seager
Jason Woolson



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The Kindness Suitcase

The district has been given several great educational resources housed in a special suitcase courtesy of Holocaust Education Resource Organization of the Buffalo Jewish Federation.

The Kindness Suitcase is an engaging educational tool designed to teach children in Grades K-3 about respect, kindness, tolerance, and empathy. This resource honors the heroic actions of Sir Nicholas Winton, who saved 669 Jewish children by placing them on the Kindertransport, as well as Michael Bond's creation of Paddington Bear, which symbolizes the Kindertransport children who arrived at Reading Station.

The Kindness Suitcase is thoughtfully packed with 15 curated books, 30 educational resources, and a Paddington Bear, generously gifted to the school to help teach about the Holocaust in a sensitive, age-appropriate way.

Training sessions are provided to schools and districts to educate how to use the suitcase's books and resources. The suitcase is housed in the Middle School/High School Library and the books are available to all schools in the district. Wilson is one of approximately 97 schools in Western New York to have a Kindness Suitcase.

Special thanks to Wendy from the Holocaust Education Resource Organization of the Buffalo Jewish Federation for visiting the library and dropping off the suitcase to our school.

