



# Colebrook School

## October Newsletter

### From the Principal

Hello families,

What a start to the 2026-2027 school year! It has been so great to see so many smiling faces on both adults and students! Our hallways feel wonderful each morning, filled with the sounds of learning and laughter. Our staff is dedicated to making sure that those sounds continue in an environment that is welcoming, nurturing and inspiring – emotionally and academically – for all students.



We are grateful for your partnership as we embark on the wonderful school year ahead! Our goal this year is to see every single student 95% of the days or more. We want to partner with you to help this happen. Consistent school attendance has been shown to impact not only academic growth, but also a child's social and health-related outcomes throughout their entire lives. Seeing your child at school daily helps us to grow a community of connection and belonging here in our building.

All attendance records are available in the **Infinite Campus Parent Portal**. Please contact our building secretary, Mrs. Maloney at 585-336-1600 if you need help establishing your login credentials.

This school year we will continue using a universal attendance policy in our building. That means that all absences, both excused and unexcused, will be monitored closely by our team. If your child reaches an absence rate of 5% or more, you may receive a call home to partner with your family proactively before their absences become chronic.

If your child reaches 10% or more, it is considered chronic absenteeism according to New York State and Federal regulations, even if they have a documented reason. Your child will receive a letter notifying you of their attendance record. This letter will include a form for feedback on how we can best support your child and family considering their time out of the building.

We value your communication and want to know how to help your child succeed. If you are experiencing barriers to your child attending school, let us know how we can help. We are committed to supporting their growth and learning, always.

In partnership,  
Jennifer DeWitz, *Principal*  
Katie DeFazio, *Assistant Principal*

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## School Information

**Principal:** Jennifer DeWitz |  
**Jennifer\_DeWitz@westiron.monroe.edu**

**Vice Principal:** Katie DeFazio |  
**Katie\_DeFazio@westiron.monroe.edu**

**Secretary:** Melanie Maloney |  
**Melanie\_Maloney@westiron.monroe.edu**

**Main Office:** 585-336-1600

**Health Office:** 585-336-1608

**Fax:** 585-336-0866

**Transportation:** 585-336-2992

**District Office:** 585-342-5500

**Location:** 210 Colebrook Drive.



# Upcoming Events

## **October**

Oct. 2: National Custodian's Day

Oct. 3: Fall Harvest Festival at Helmer  
Nature Center

### **Oct. 5: School Picture Day**

Oct. 8: Go Home Early Drill- Dismiss at  
2:20 p.m.

Oct. 9: NO SCHOOL- Superintendent's  
Conference Day

Oct. 12: NO SCHOOL: Indigenous People  
Day

Oct. 16: PTSA Event Trunk or Treat 6 p.m.

Oct. 21: Open House & Book Fair-6 p.m.

Oct. 30: Halloween Parade



## **November**

Nov. 5: Picture Day- Make-ups

Nov. 6: NO SCHOOL- Parent teacher  
Conference Day

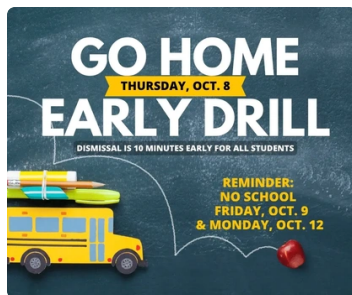
Nov. 11: NO SCHOOL: Veteran's Day

Nov. 25-27: NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving  
Recess

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CLICK THIS GRAPHIC  
AND SCROLL DOWN  
TO SEE THIS  
MONTH'S MENU



## Go Home Early Drill is Oct. 8!

The state-mandated Go Home Early safety drill is Thursday, Oct. 8 - the start of a four-day weekend. All students will be released 10 minutes earlier than usual. If you pick up your children at school, please arrive 10 minutes early. Expect students who ride buses to arrive 10 minutes early. The K-6 Extension Childcare Program will open early and remain

open until 6 PM. Crossing guard schedules also will accommodate.

**Note:** There is also no school Friday, Oct. 9 (Supt. Conference Day) and Monday, Oct. 12 (Indigenous People's Day).



## ICC Supports Students

The Irondequoit Community Cupboard's Backpack Program supports students in all schools in grades Pre-K through 6. It supplies the child with a bag of food to carry home each Friday that includes items to eat over the weekend. These might be healthy snacks, peanut butter, cereal, soup, canned pasta meals, oatmeal, fruit and vegetables.

This program is not intended to supply food for the entire family but merely help with food for that child. The ICC provides this service for students who qualify through our application process. To be eligible, families must fill out the CEP Application at [\*\*this link\*\*](#). All families that are approved will be mailed a consent form that must be filled out and returned. Questions program or process? Email or call Sarah Herbert at [\*\*sarah\\_herbert@westiron.monroe.edu\*\*](mailto:sarah_herbert@westiron.monroe.edu) or (585) 336-3063.

*Note: Program participation is confidential.*

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## Bike Rodeo Gallery!





# Family Needs Assessment Survey

Dear Colebrook Families,

My name is **Jomar Canales**, and I am honored to serve as the **Community School Site Coordinator** for Colebrook Elementary School as we embark on our first year as a Community School. This initiative is centered on bringing together the strengths, resources, and voices of students, families, school staff, and community partners to support the success and well-being of every child. As we begin this important journey, my primary goal is to listen, build meaningful relationships, and establish a strong foundation of trust and collaboration between our school, our families, and the broader community. Together, we hope to develop a welcoming environment where students and families can access opportunities, resources, and support that help them thrive.

A key part of this work starts with hearing directly from you. We invite all parents and guardians to participate in our **Family Needs Assessment Survey** (see the blue button below). This survey has been designed to help us better understand the needs, interests, experiences, and priorities of families within our school community. Topics include family activities and interests, childcare needs, school communication, academic support, family engagement opportunities, mental health and wellness resources, technology access, and connections to community services.

**Your voice matters.** The feedback you provide will play a critical role in shaping future programs, services, workshops, events, and resources offered through our Community School initiative. By sharing your experiences and perspectives, you help ensure that our efforts reflect the real needs of our students and families.

Every response is valuable. Whether you are sharing strengths, challenges, concerns, or ideas for improvement, your input will help guide our work as we strive to create meaningful opportunities and support for all members of our school community. The more families who participate, the better we can understand how to serve and support our students both inside and outside the classroom.

Thank you for your partnership, trust, and commitment to the success of our students. We look forward to learning from your feedback and working together to build a stronger, more connected school community.

Sincerely,

**Jomar Canales**

Community School Site Coordinator  
Colebrook Elementary School

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## Tap to take survey

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### Health Information Update

**Physical Exam Reminder:** As a reminder, New York State requires students to have a current physical examination on file with the school for grades UPK, K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 11th, dated on or after 9/8/2025. Families are encouraged to ensure that their child's physical has been completed and that the required documentation has been submitted to the school health office. If your child has recently had a physical with their healthcare provider, please provide the school with a copy of the examination form. Thank you for helping us maintain accurate health records and support the health and well-being of all our students. Questions? Find names and numbers to nurse **[via this link](#)**.



**Extra Clothing Donations Sought:** We are asking families to consider donating gently used, clean clothing to our school for students who may need a change of clothes during the school day. Accidents, spills, and unexpected situations can happen, and having a supply of clothing available helps ensure that students can remain comfortable and ready to learn. We are especially looking for items such as pants, shirts, socks, and underwear in a variety of sizes. Donations can be sent to the schools nursing office. Thank you for helping us support all of our students!

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## Curriculum & Instruction

Constitution Day is celebrated across on Sept. 17 because it commemorates the day in 1787 when 39 delegates signed the United States Constitution at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Officially known as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, the observance not only marks the signing of the Constitution but also recognizes all Americans who have become citizens, either by birth or naturalization.

Here in West Irondequoit, we observed the day through educational experiences that promote civic knowledge. Across the district, in grades 4-12, students engaged in a range of experiences designed to develop understanding of essential principles, such as the rule of law, civic responsibilities, individual freedoms, and the value of diversity in a democratic society.

While Constitution Day and Citizenship Day serve as important reminders to celebrate these values, civic learning is not a one-day event in our district. Across our K-12 Humanities program, students regularly examine their roles and responsibilities within their school, community, and the broader society, helping students develop all they need to contribute thoughtfully and responsibly to civic life.

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## Fall Festival is Saturday, Oct. 3!

The annual Fall Harvest Festival at Helmer Nature Center is Saturday, Oct. 3 from 1-4 p.m. Come enjoy the fall season!

Admission prices are:

- \$20 pass includes access to EVERYTHING – all games, crafts, prizes and of course, one PONY RIDE
- \$15 activity pass is good for all games, crafts and prizes.
- \$2 Adult Walkaround pass – enjoy music and demos!

Note: Additional pony rides are \$10 each. The Frios Gourmet Pops truck will be on-site. Festival games/activities include:

- Fall Crafts
  - Pony Rides
  - Live Music by Allen Hopkins
  - Cider-Making
  - Tractor Rides
  - Inflatable Obstacle Course
  - Gaga Ball
  - PRIZE BAG for the Kids
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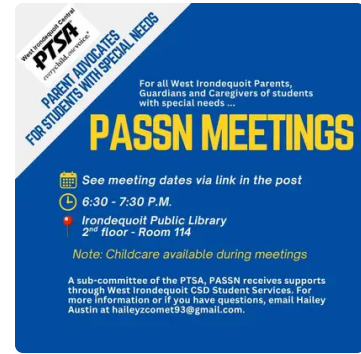
# PASSN Schedule 2026-2027

On behalf of the WICPTSA and PASSN, please read below to learn more about the Parent Advocates for Student Services Network and see its monthly meeting schedule. PASSN is comprised of district parent/guardian advocates of students who receive support through West Irondequoit Student Services. Meetings are a safe space for families.

- **Oct. 19** - Workshop with district Speech Pathologist and Caseworker, Maureen Keller.
- **Nov. 9** - Workshop with district Occupational Therapist, Andy Casini.
- **December (no meeting)**
- **Jan. 11** – Trauma Informed Workshop with district counselors and psychologists.
- **Feb. 8** – Workshop on Bullying with Phil Ortolani, district Director of Health and Wellness.
- **March 8** - CSE Workshop with Directors of Student Services, Joanna Rowe and Amy Donk.
- **April 12** – Mindfulness Workshop with E-RYT 200 & RCYT, Lisa Chidsey.
- **May 10** – Booth Night with community resources to support your children and family
- **June 14 – POTENTIAL MEETING** - School year recap, summer service plans & how will we stay structured this summer?

Please email [haileyzcomet93@gmail.com](mailto:haileyzcomet93@gmail.com) with any questions or for more information.

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Signs like these are posted on our school grounds

## Safety Update on motorized vehicles

We want to again remind families of important safety expectations regarding vehicles on school property. All motor vehicles must be licensed and registered and operated only on designated roadways and parking areas.

Driving on pedestrian pathways poses serious safety risks and is strictly prohibited. We've seen an increase in golf cart traffic at some schools. By law, golf carts must be licensed, driven by licensed drivers and follow all traffic laws. They should not be on sidewalks or near building entrances. **Students who ride e-bikes to school must walk them once on campus.** The speed and motorized function of e-bikes can endanger both riders and pedestrians. E-bikes should be parked in designated bike areas and not used on walkways. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all. If you have questions, please contact your school's main office or the district office.

**JOBS! JOIN OUR TEAM**

**WE'RE HIRING!**

CLICK ANYWHERE ON THIS GRAPHIC TO SEE CURRENT OPENINGS