PEAK PERFORMANCE
WEST IRONDEQUOIT SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALL means ALL
WELCOME. NURTURE. INSPIRE.

The Southlawn Scoop

October 2026



From the Principal



K-3 Principal Letter

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. Melissa Vella at 585-266-5070 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,
Jacob Shirley, Principal
Kaitlin Groat, Assistant Principal

Cheryl Wicks, Social Worker

School Information



Principal: Jacob Shirley |
Jacob_Shirley@westiron.monroe.edu
Vice Principal: Kaitlin Groat |
Kaitlin_Groat@westiron.monroe.edu
Cheryl Wicks: Social Worker |
Cheryl_Wicks@westiron.monroe.edu
Secretary: Melissa Vella | Melissa_Vella@westiron.monroe.edu
Main Office: 585-266-5070
Health Office: 585-336-3030
Fax: 585-336-3097
Transportation: 585-336-2992
District Office: 585-342-5500
Location: 455 Rawlinson Road, Rochester, NY 14617
Follow our district social media:

- **Facebook**
- **Instagram**
- **X**

Upcoming Events



October

Oct. 3: Fall Harvest Festival at Helmer Nature Ctr., 1-4 PM
Oct. 8: Go Home Early Drill 2:55 PM
Oct. 9: NO SCHOOL: Superintendent's Conference Day
Oct. 12: NO SCHOOL: Indigenous People Day
Oct. 16: PTSA Family Event - Trunk or Treat
Oct. 30: Halloween Parade, 2:15 PM

November

Nov. 5: Picture Re-Take Day
Nov. 6: NO SCHOOL for Grades PreK-6
Parent-Teacher Conference Day
Nov. 11: NO SCHOOL: Veteran's Day
Nov. 12 - Southlawn Open House 6-7 PM
Nov. 20 - PTSA Family Event 6:30-8:30 PM
Nov. 25-27: NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Recess





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).

Southlawn School PTSA
everychild. onevoice.®

art showcase

Students,
Would you like a chance to contribute to PTSA? Would you like to see your artwork featured on a future event flyer or announcement sent home to the entire school? Send in a drawing or other art with your first name and grade, and be on the lookout for your artistic debut!

Grown-ups,
Would you like your child's artwork featured in the Southlawn Microgallery End-Of-Year Exhibit? Please fill out the form below! (Not required for participation in the PTSA Art Showcase).

You can also email your student's artwork to:
southlawn@wicptsa.org



(Need more room? Use the back, or a different sheet!)

I would like my child's artwork featured in the Southlawn Microgallery End-Of-Year Exhibit. I am aware that the Southlawn Microgallery (Woolacott Rd) operates separate from PTSA, and the artwork may appear in social media posts for the gallery.

Grown-Up Name:_____

Email: _____

Would you like your student's first name and grade displayed in the gallery? **YES NO**

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** or (585) 336-3063.

Note: Program participation is confidential.

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!



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 will observe 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.



Fall Festival is Saturday, Oct. 3!

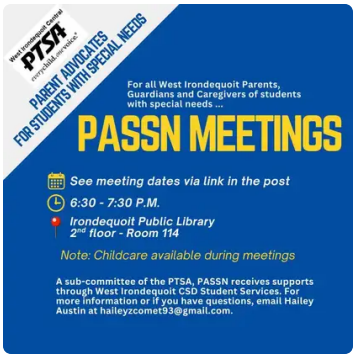
The annual Fall Harvest Festival at Helmer Nature Center is Saturday, Oct. 3 from 1-4 p.m. Come enjoy the fall season! Admission prices are:

- $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

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** with any questions or for more information.



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.



Southlawn School PTSA
every child. one voice.

art showcase

Students,

Would you like a chance to contribute to PTSA? Would you like to see your artwork featured on a future event flyer or announcement sent home to the entire school? Send in a drawing or other art with your first name and grade, and be on the lookout for your artistic debut!

Grown-ups,

Would you like your child's artwork featured in the Southlawn Microgallery End-Of-Year Exhibit? Please fill out the form below! (Not required for participation in the PTSA Art Showcase).

You can also email your student's artwork to: **southlawn@wicptsa.org**



(Need more room? Use the back, or a different sheet!)

I would like my child's artwork featured in the Southlawn Microgallery End-Of-Year Exhibit. I am aware that the Southlawn Microgallery (Woolacott Rd) operates separate from PTSA, and the artwork may appear in social media posts for the gallery.

Grown-Up Name:_____

Email: _____

Would you like your student's first name and grade displayed in the gallery? **YES NO**