Back to School Reminders

Friday, Sept. 4 **West Irondequoit Central School District**



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Hello families:

The sound of children laughing seems to indicate that a new school year has already started. Right now, as I am looking out of my window, I can see our students and their families filling up the elementary playground across the way, meeting their teachers, sharing popsicles with the principals, and just enjoying being together once again. Their enthusiasm and happiness are infectious, and it's a perfect reminder of the reason for our work. I am just as excited to welcome all of our students back next week. This year our central idea, which has been inspired by our work with Denard Mitchell, is to Guide with Purpose and to Lead with Care. I can think of no better way to start a new school year!

There's a lot to be enthusiastic about in West Irondequoit. At our main campus, we are seeing great advances with the turf field addition; at Pinegrove, we are carrying out further renovations in preparation for additional pre-kindergarten rooms and a cool new playground; the classrooms at the Helmer Nature Center are being refreshed; and athletic fields are being redeveloped at Iroquois Middle School. We are also introducing a new five-year **Strategic Plan** called Momentum in Motion, which will take us through to 2031. Because of the excellent work lifted by our staff, families, and the Board of Education over the past five years, we have achieved significant progress, progress which I was pleased to celebrate with our staff this week. Momentum in Motion will build on that progress as we prepare our students to be even more future-ready and as we continue to improve the conditions for teaching, learning, and student success.

At the start of this new phase, I keep returning to a basic idea presented by Zach Mercurio in The Power of Mattering: "the fundamental need to be seen, heard, valued, and needed." This is exactly the feeling we want every student, every member of staff, and every family to have in our schools. So, as we welcome everyone back, we should remember the importance of the little things: the greeting at the door, the encouragement in class, the laugh on the playground, and the sense that someone actually sees you and cares that you're here. In this way, we commit to Guide with Purpose and Lead with Care, and through this approach, we keep our momentum moving forward together.

In partnership,
Aaron R. Johnson. Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

TIPS FROM TRANSPORTATION & MORE

10 TIPS FOR BUS RIDERS

1. Be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before arrival time
2. Parents/guardians are responsible for getting children to and from the bus stop safely
3. Cross the street ONLY when the driver has signaled to do so
4. Maintain a safe distance from the street and bus
5. Approach the bus to board ONLY when the door is open
6. Stay seated while the bus is moving & wear your mask
7. Observe the same conduct as in a classroom
8. Never put your hands/arms outside a window
9. No eating or drinking on the bus
10. K-3 students will not be allowed to exit the bus unless a parent or guardian is visibly present.



Start times are posted on each school page (tap "OUR SCHOOL") after reaching your child's school website via **westirondequoit.org**. We wanted to share a few reminders:

RE-CHECK PLEASE: Check **Infinite Campus** to make sure there have not been any adjustments to your child's bus schedule. In order for drivers to learn new routes, any changes that were submitted after Aug. 30, including childcare pick-up/drop-off requests, cannot be implemented until mid-September.

PATIENCE: As drivers and students learn new routines, buses often run behind during the first several days of school. Delays are not uncommon, so we appreciate your patience.

QUESTIONS? Call Transportation at (585) 336-2992, review the Transportation page on our website or email witransportation@westiron.monroe.edu. Forgot to Opt-Out of our Transportation? There's a form on the page to do so. You can always opt back in if you need to.

FREE MEALS AGAIN!

Our district is again approved for the Community Eligibility Provision, which allows free breakfast and lunch to all students regardless of income. We still suggest that all families who think they might be eligible for the 2026-27 school year Household Income Eligibility form. If you submitted a Household Income Eligibility Form in 2025-26 and were approved, your child will receive benefits through October 17, 2026. A new application must be submitted and approved to receive benefits after that.

The 2026-27 School Year Household Income Eligibility Form is available on our website. Tap Departments, then Food Services but it's **available here** and attached at the bottom of this newsletter. It was also in the annual "Back to School" edition of The Quote newsletter. If you have questions specific to West Irondequoit, please call

(585) 336-2953.

*Lunch menus & more, **click here**.*

INFINITE CAMPUS ASSISTANCE

Need help with **Infinite Campus**, our student information system? Contact the appropriate support person below.

- K-6: **Marilyn Deignan**
- 7-8: **Jane Csaszar**
- 9-12: **Howard Dutton**

Please make sure your mobile phone number is in the CELL/MOBILE PHONE field in IC to ensure that you receive emergency messages from us, such as when school closes due to weather. Note: We know you've heard a lot about ParentSquare, but you'll still get Report Cards and Bus Information in IC.

PARENTSQUARE IS HERE!



CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR PSQ PAGE!

Have you activated your account yet? Even if you don't, you'll still receive our communications, but if you sign up for PSQ you can customize how and when you receive our notifications. We are also working on a new Calendar system so you'll be able to see all of your children's school events right in the app! Learn more or actiivate your account **here**.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

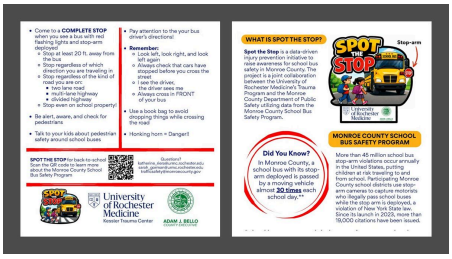
Available on-demand via **THIS LINK** is our district's Communication Plan. It was developed to ensure all families are kept updated in a timely manner on key information district-wide and in alignment with our mission, vision and Strategic Plan. You'll find School Handbooks on your child's school website: Schools Directory.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES



We are always looking to add good people to work in our district. To see current job openings, **click here**. You can also always see current openings by following our social media channels.

SPOT THE STOP



Our district is proud to join “Spot the Stop,” a school bus safety awareness campaign from the University of Rochester Medicine Trauma Program and the Monroe County Department of Public Safety. Since 2023, this program has issued more than 19,000 tickets to drivers who illegally passed school buses with their stop arms deployed — nearly 30 incidents every school day. These violations put students at serious risk as they get on and off the bus. Please take a moment to talk with everyone in your household — especially new drivers and students — about the importance of school bus safety. Read more via this link.

HEALTH INFORMATION

We recently shared some **important health requirements, including those on immunizations and physicals**. You can find that helpful information and more on our district's Health-Nurses page (**linked here**). That includes a directory of school nurses with phone numbers. And don't forget about our Family Flu Shot event on Tuesday, Sept. 22. Call (716) 805-1020 to book an appointment. Call or email info@INCnursing.com with questions.



Key links

Key dates: 2026-27 School Calendar
The Quote: **Back to School newsletter**
Website: westirondequoit.org

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X/Twitter: @westirondequoit